

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meetings of the Inverclyde Council,
Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Boards
to be submitted
to the Meeting of The Inverclyde Council on**

Thursday 5 December 2024

**APPOINTMENT PANEL
HEAD OF MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIONS & HOMELESSNESS
INVERCLYDE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP
30 MAY 2024**

**Appointment Panel – Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness
Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership**

Thursday 30 May 2024 at 9am

Present: Councillor Moran.

Chair: Chief Executive presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (as Adviser to the Panel)

In attendance also:

Kelly Shaw	Solace in Business (as Adviser to the Panel)
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The meeting was held by video-conference.

425 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

425

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Jane Grant, Chief Executive NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board, and Alan Cowan, non-executive member of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board.

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.

426 Shortlisting and Arrangements for Interview of Applicants – Post of Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership

426

There were submitted copies of applications received from 17 candidates for the post of Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership.

Decided: that six candidates be invited to participate in a pre-interview assessment centre process before being shortlisted for interview, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

**APPOINTMENT PANEL
HEAD OF MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIONS & HOMELESSNESS
INVERCLYDE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP
20 JUNE 2024**

**Appointment Panel – Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness
Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership**

Thursday 20 June 2024 at 9.30am

Present: Councillor Moran.

Chair: Chief Executive presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (as Adviser to the Panel)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock.

427 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

427

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Jane Grant, Chief Executive NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board, and Alan Cowan, non-executive member of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board.

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.

428 Interview of Applicants – Post of Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership

428

The Panel interviewed two candidates and agreed to appoint Maxine Ward to the post of Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 26 September 2024 at 4pm

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

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Lynsey Brown	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Jonathan Hinds	Chief Social Work Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance and Communications Manager

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Crowther, Curley, McGuire, Quinn and Reynolds attending remotely.

429 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

429

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

No declarations of interest were intimated.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Provost referred to the recent unveiling of a permanent memorial in Gourock's Chapel Street Cemetery to commemorate the sinking of the Mary of Iona ship in 1822 with the loss of 42 lives. The Provost thanked Mr David Carnduff for leading the campaign to create the memorial, those who travelled from Iona and Mull for the unveiling, Councillors Quinn, Reynolds and Crowther and Inverclyde Council's Ground Services team.

The Provost also referred to the election of Councillor Martin McCluskey as Member of Parliament for the Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West Constituency at the recent General Election, wishing him success in his new role, and acknowledged the work of Mr Ronnie Cowan, who previously held the seat.

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

430 General Purposes Board – 12 June 2024

430

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

431	Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee – 13 June 2024	431
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe.	
432	Inverclyde Council – 13 June 2024	432
	Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.	
433	Audit Committee – 27 June 2024	433
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.	
434	Planning Board – 7 August 2024	434
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
435	Local Review Body – 7 August 2024	435
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
436	Policy & Resources Committee – 13 August 2024	436
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe.	
437	General Purposes Board – 14 August 2024	437
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
438	Audit Committee – 20 August 2024	438
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.	
439	Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel – 27 August 2024	439
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Brennan.	
440	Environment & Regeneration Committee – 29 August 2024	440
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	
441	Grants Sub-Committee – 2 September 2024	441
	Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie	
442	Education & Communities Committee – 3 September 2024	442
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
443	Planning Board – 4 September 2024	443
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

- 444 Local Review Body – 4 September 2024 444**
Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.
- 445 General Purposes Board – 11 September 2024 445**
Approved on the motion of Councillor Curley.
- 446 Policy & Resources Committee – 17 September 2024 446**
Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe.
- 447 Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel – 19 September 2024 447**
Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.
- 448 Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2023-24 448**
 There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, (1) presenting the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2023-24, and (2) seeking approval for submission of the report to the Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government.
Decided:
 (1) that the contents of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2023-24 be noted, and
 (2) that approval be given to the submission of the report to the Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government.
- 449 Annual Report on Progress of Trauma Informed Council Initiatives 449**
 There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on Inverclyde Council’s adoption of the Leadership Pledge of Support to become a trauma informed organisation, and (2) presenting the Trauma Informed and Responsive Inverclyde Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/24.
Decided:
 (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
 (2) that it be agreed to continue to support the implementation of the National Trauma Training Programme and development of trauma informed approaches across the local authority.
- 450 2023/24 Annual Audit Report – Meeting Request 450**
 There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for a meeting of the Inverclyde Council to be convened on 24 October 2024 at 4pm to consider the 2023/24 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 on 24 October 2024 at 4pm to consider the 2023/24 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.

451 Scheme of Administration – Political Balance

451

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of the necessary requirements to ensure political balance on Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies, where appropriate, following (1) the resignation from the SNP Group of Councillor Kirsty Law who will now sit within the Council as an independent Elected Member; and (2) the resignation of Councillor Martin McCluskey as an Elected Member of the Council in respect of Ward 5 (Inverclyde West).

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that the new political balance applying to Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies, as detailed in the appendices to the report, be noted;
- (3) that the membership of Inverclyde Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Boards, together with Convenors and Vice-Convenors, be agreed as follows:

POLICY & RESEOURCES COMMITTEE

(a) SNP place transferred to Councillor Law as an Independent Member, (b) Councillor McCluskey replaced by Councillor Moran, and (c) Councillor McGuire to be Vice-Convener:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Councillor McCabe | 7. Councillor Law |
| 2. Councillor Moran | 8. Councillor Armstrong |
| 3. Councillor McCormick | 9. Councillor McVey |
| 4. Councillor McGuire | 10. Councillor Wilson |
| 5. Councillor Robertson | 11. Councillor Nelson |
| 6. Councillor Curley | |

Convener: Councillor McCabe

Vice-Convener: Councillor McGuire

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Councillor McCabe to come off Committee and place carried as a vacancy until after by-election:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Councillor McCormick | 7. Councillor Robertson |
| 2. Councillor Cassidy | 8. Councillor Crowther |
| 3. Councillor Clocherty | 9. Provost McKenzie |
| 4. Councillor Jackson | 10. Councillor Quinn |
| 5. Vacancy until after by-election | 11. Councillor Brooks |
| 6. Councillor Curley | |

Convener: Councillor McCormick

Vice-Conveners: Councillor Cassidy (Environment)
Councillor Clocherty (Regeneration)

EDUCATION & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Councillor Law to be replaced by Councillor Reynolds:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Councillor Clocherty | 7. Councillor Reynolds |
| 2. Councillor Brennan | 8. Councillor Nelson |
| 3. Councillor McGuire | 9. Councillor Quinn |
| 4. Councillor Moran | 10. Councillor McVey |
| 5. Councillor Robertson | 11. Councillor Wilson |
| 6. Councillor Armstrong | |

Convener: Councillor Clocherty

Vice-Conveners: Councillor Brennan (Education)

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

Councillor McGuire (Communities)

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

(a) Councillor Clocherty to be replaced by Councillor McCabe, (b) Councillors Reynolds and Councillor McCluskey to come off Committee and places carried as vacancies until after by-election, and (c) Councillor Jackson to be Vice-Convenor:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Councillor Jackson | 7. Councillor Armstrong |
| 2. Vacancy until after by-election | 8. Councillor Daisley |
| 3. Councillor Brennan | 9. Vacancy until after by-election |
| 4. Councillor Cassidy | 10. Provost McKenzie |
| 5. Councillor McCabe | 11. Councillor Brooks |
| 6. Councillor Robertson | |

Convener: Councillor Brennan

Vice-Convenor: Councillor Jackson

AUDIT COMMITTEE

(a) Councillor Reynolds to be replaced by Councillor Law, and (b) Councillor McCluskey to be replaced by Councillor Clocherty:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Councillor McCabe | 7. Councillor Curley |
| 2. Councillor McGuire | 8. Councillor Law |
| 3. Councillor Clocherty | 9. Councillor McVey |
| 4. Councillor McCormick | 10. Councillor Nelson |
| 5. Councillor Robertson | 11. Councillor Wilson |
| 6. Councillor Crowther | |

Convener: Councillor Wilson

Vice-Convenor: Councillor Curley

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD

(a) Councillor Crowther to come off Committee and place carried as a vacancy until after by-election, and (b) Councillor McCluskey to be replaced by Councillor Jackson:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Councillor Brennan | 7. Councillor Armstrong |
| 2. Councillor Jackson | 8. Councillor Reynolds |
| 3. Councillor Cassidy | 9. Councillor Quinn |
| 4. Councillor Moran | 10. Provost McKenzie |
| 5. Councillor Curley | 11. Councillor Wilson |
| 6. Vacancy until after by-election | |

Chair: Councillor Moran

Vice Chair: Councillor Curley

PLANNING BOARD

SNP place transferred to Councillor Law as an Independent Member

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Councillor McCabe | 7. Councillor Curley |
| 2. Councillor McGuire | 8. Councillor Law |
| 3. Councillor Clocherty | 9. Provost McKenzie |
| 4. Councillor Jackson | 10. Councillor McVey |
| 5. Councillor Armstrong | 11. Councillor Brooks |
| 6. Councillor Crowther | |

Chair: Councillor McVey

Vice-Chair: Councillor Curley

HUMAN RESOURCES APPEALS BOARD

SNP place transferred to Councillor Law as an Independent Member

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Councillor Brennan | 4. Councillor Daisley |
| 2. Councillor Clocherty | 5. Councillor Quinn |
| 3. Councillor Law | |

Chair: Councillor Brennan

Vice-Chair: Councillor Clocherty

POLICY & RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

(a) Councillor Curley to be replaced by Councillor Law, (b) Councillor McCluskey to be replaced by Councillor McGuire, and (c) Councillor McGuire to be Vice-Convenor:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Councillor McCabe | 4. Councillor Law |
| 2. Councillor McGuire | 5. Councillor McVey |
| 3. Councillor Robertson | 6. Councillor Wilson |

Convenor: Councillor McCabe

Vice-Convenor: Councillor McGuire

GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE

No change:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Councillor Brennan | 4. Councillor Reynolds |
| 2. Councillor McGuire | 5. Provost McKenzie |
| 3. Councillor Crowther | 6. Councillor Brooks |

Chair: Councillor Brooks

LOCAL REVIEW BODY

No change:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Councillor Clocherty | 5. Councillor Curley |
| 2. Councillor McCabe | 6. Councillor McVey |
| 3. Councillor McGuire | 7. Councillor Brooks |
| 4. Councillor Crowther | |

Chair: Councillor McVey

Vice Chair: Councillor Curley

LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SNP place transferred to Councillor Law as an Independent Member:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Councillor Brennan | 7. Councillor Law |
| 2. Councillor Clocherty | 8. Councillor Reynolds |
| 3. Councillor Moran | 9. Councillor Quinn |
| 4. Councillor McGuire | 10. Provost McKenzie |
| 5. Councillor Crowther | 11. Councillor Wilson |
| 6. Councillor Daisley | |

Chair: Councillor Wilson

Vice-Chair: Provost McKenzie

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

No change:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Councillor Cassidy | 4. Councillor Daisley |
| 2. Councillor McCabe | 5. Provost McKenzie |
| 3. Councillor Curley | 6. Councillor Brooks |

Convenor: Councillor Curley

Vice-Convenor: Provost McKenzie

(4) that appointments be made to Outside Bodies as follows:

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

COSLA Board for Health and Social Care – Councillor Jackson to replace Councillor McCluskey

Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal Cabinet (Joint Committee) – Councillor McGuire to replace Councillor McCluskey as Substitute Member

Inverclyde Integration Joint Board – Councillor Brennan to replace Councillor McCluskey
Scotland Excel Joint Committee – Councillor Clocherty to replace Councillor McCluskey
Clyde, Kintyre and Islands Ferry Stakeholders Group – Councillor Cassidy to replace Councillor McCluskey

Greenock Arts Guild Board – Councillor Brennan to replace Councillor McCluskey

Gourock – Dunnon Infrastructure and Vessels Project – Councillor Reynolds to replace Councillor McCluskey

(5) that it be noted the political balance will require to be considered again when the result of the forthcoming by-election is confirmed.

452 Establishment of Programme Board

452

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) requesting that the Council approves the establishment of a Programme Board to consider the workstream savings identified through the 2024/26 budget setting process, and (2) seeking nominations for the Programme Board in line with the Council's political balance.

Decided:

(1) that the establishment of a Programme Board on the Terms of Reference detailed at appendix 1 to the report be agreed; and

(2) that it be agreed that (a) the following Elected Members be appointed to the Programme Board: Councillors McCabe, McGuire, Clocherty, McCormick, Robertson, Curley, Armstrong, Brooks, McVey, Law and Quinn, and (b) the Convener of the Board be appointed by the Programme Board.

453 Funding Contribution to the Jo Cox Foundation

453

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) advising of a decision by COSLA for individual Councils to consider supporting a request for a funding contribution to the Jo Cox Foundation, and (2) seeking a decision as to whether Inverclyde Council will contribute to the Foundation.

Decided:

(1) that the terms of this report and the letter received from COSLA in relation to the Jo Cox Foundation be noted; and

(2) that it be agreed a one-off donation of £500 be made to the Jo Cox Foundation from the Members Services budget.

454 Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force

454

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update in respect of the Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force.

Decided:

(1) that the contents of the report be noted; and

(2) that it be noted that a meeting will be arranged to consider the next steps of the Socio-Economic Task Force with a report being brought to a future meeting of the Council.

455 Treasury Management – Annual Report 2023/24 – Remit from the Policy & Resources Committee

455

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting consideration of a remit from the Policy & Resources Committee of 13 August 2024 relative to the Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24.

Decided: that the operation of the treasury function and its activities for 2023/24, as required under the terms of the Treasury Management Practice 6 (TMP6) on 'Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements', be approved.

456 Management Rules for Parks in Inverclyde – Remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee 456

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting consideration of a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 29 August 2024 relative to the Management Rules for Parks in Inverclyde.

Decided: that (a) the Parks Management Rules for 2024-2034 be approved, and (b) delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to formally make the rules in accordance with statutory procedure.

Private Appendices to Minutes

457 General Purposes Board – 12 June 2024 457

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

458 Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee – 13 June 2024 458

Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.

459 General Purposes Board – 14 August 2024 459

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

460 Environment & Regeneration Committee – 29 August 2024 460

Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 2 OCTOBER 2024

Local Review Body

Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 4pm

Present: Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, McCabe, McGuire, McVey and Nelson (for Brooks).

Chair: Councillor McVey presided.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Margaret Pickett	Senior Planner (Planning Adviser)
Katrine Dean	Planning Officer (Planning Adviser)
Daniel Henderson	Planning and Building Standards Manager
Jim Kerr	Solicitor, Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (Legal Adviser)
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillor Crowther, Curley and McGuire attending remotely.

Prior to the commencement of proceedings, the Chair referred to the imminent retirement of Mr Jim Kerr, Solicitor, Legal Democratic, Digital & Customer Services. The Chair thanked Mr Kerr for his guidance, support and long service to local government and wished him a happy retirement.

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

461 APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 461

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

Councillors Crowther and Curley declared an interest in Agenda Item 3(a) (Proposed holiday lodges, support and administration building and access road: Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Inverkip (22/0259/IC)).

462 PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW ON THE BASIS OF NON-DETERMINATION 462

(a) Non-Determination of Application 24/0077/IC – Gourock Park Bowling Club, Larkfield Road, Gourock

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) presenting the information currently available to elected members in relation to the Notice of Review submitted for planning application 24/0077/IC – Gourock Park Bowling Club, Larkfield Road, Gourock and (2) seeking agreement on what procedure the Local Review Body will take in determining the review.

The Director Environment & Regeneration addressed the Local Review Body in regard to the processing of the application and then left the meeting.

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 2 OCTOBER 2024

Ms Pickett acted as Planning Adviser relative to this case.

Decided: that it be agreed to request a written submission from the appointed officer with a submission date of no later than 25 October 2024.

463 PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW**463****(a) Proposed holiday lodges, support and administration building and access road: Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Inverkip (22/0259/IC)**

There was submitted papers relative to the application for review for proposed holiday lodges, support and administration building and access road at Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Inverkip (22/0259/IC) to enable the Local Review Body to consider the matter afresh.

Councillors Crowther and Curley declared an interest in this matter as an acquaintance of the applicant and left the meeting.

Ms Dean acted as Planning Adviser relative to this case.

Decided:

(1) that sufficient information had not been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and

(2) that, in terms of Regulation 16 of the Town & Country Planning (Schemes of Delegation and Local Review Body Procedure) (Scotland) Regulation 2013, consideration of the application for review be continued for an unaccompanied site inspection to be arranged by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services in consultation with the Chair.

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 9 OCTOBER 2024

General Purposes Board

Wednesday 9 October 2024 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Cassidy, Jackson, Moran, Quinn, Reynolds and Robertson (for Curley).

Chair: Councillor Moran presided.

In attendance:

David Keenan	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Fiona Denver	Senior Paralegal Officer
Gordon Leitch	Team Leader (Consultancy) – Roads and Transportation
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

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

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

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

464 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 464

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Curley, with Councillor Robertson substituting, and Councillor Wilson.

Provost McKenzie declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 (Notification by Loyal Orange Lodge – District 19 to hold a Memorial Procession on 19 October 2024 through parts of Port Glasgow).

Certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:
Agenda Item 5 (Notification by Loyal Orange Lodge – District 19 to hold a Memorial Procession on 19 October 2024 through parts of Port Glasgow) – Councillor Cassidy.

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.

465 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence 465

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider an application for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence which will be considered at a future meeting, all as detailed in the Private Appendix. There was no Member debate on this item of business.

466 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence 466

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 9 OCTOBER 2024

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider an application for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence which will be considered a future meeting, all as detailed in the Private Appendix. There was no Member debate on this item of business.

Councillor Reynolds joined the meeting at this juncture.

467 Request for Suspension of Taxi Driver's Licence

467

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider (1) the immediate suspension of a Taxi Driver's Licence, and (2) whether to further suspend the licence as the Board may determine, to which the Board decided, after a vote, (1) to uphold the suspension of the License, and (2) that the suspension be lifted, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

Following consideration of these items of business the Board returned to public session.

468 Notification by Loyal Orange Lodge – District 19 to hold a Memorial Procession on 19 October 2024 through parts of Port Glasgow

468

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider the notification by the Loyal Orange Lodge - District 19 to hold a public procession through parts of Port Glasgow on Saturday 19 October 2024 for a memorial parade.

Provost McKenzie declared an interest in this item as he owned a business on the proposed route and left the meeting.

Councillor Cassidy declared a connection as Community Council Champion. 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.

The Board heard Mr J MacLean on behalf of the Loyal Orange Lodge – District 19, and Sergeant Robertson from Police Scotland. The objector was not present, having been invited to attend.

Referring to paragraph 3.4 of the report, Mr Keenan confirmed that a response had been received from the organisers in response to the objection, which had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

The members then retired to consider the matter before returning to public session.

Decided: that neither a prohibition order be made nor additional conditions beyond the Council's standard conditions be imposed on the public procession organised by Loyal Orange Lodge - District 19 through parts of Port Glasgow on Saturday 19 October 2024 for a memorial parade.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 22 OCTOBER 2024**Audit Committee****Tuesday 22 October 2024 at 3pm**

Present: Councillors Clocherty, Curley, McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Robertson and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Vicky Pollock	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Francis Scott	Senior Audit Manager, Glasgow City Council
Andi Priestman	Chief Internal Auditor
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Gerard Smith	Capital Assets Principal Accountant
Samantha White	Principal Accountant (for Chief Officer Inverclyde HSCP)
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy and Communications
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Emma Peacock	Solicitor, Legal Services

In attendance also:

Michael Wilkie	KPMG (External Auditors)
Taimoor Alam	KPMG (External Auditors)

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

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed Mr Wilkie and Mr Alam from KPMG and referred to the meeting earlier in the afternoon with members of the Audit Committee and KPMG to review the 2023/24 Annual Audit Report and Best Value Thematic Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit.

The Convener also welcomed Ms Priestman's return to the Audit Committee and thanked Mr Scott for his assistance, advising that he had personally written to the Chief Executive and the City Treasurer of Glasgow City Council thanking them for releasing Mr Scott to assist with the Internal Audit function at Inverclyde Council.

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

469 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Crowther, Law and Nelson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 22 OCTOBER 2024

- 470 Internal Audit Progress Report – 30 June to 31 August 2024 470**
- 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 30 June to 31 August 2024.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the progress made by Internal Audit in the period from 30 June to 31 August 2024 be noted;
 - (2) that the proposal to add audits of Cyber Information Security and Governance of External Organisations to utilise the previously unallocated 25 days in the 2024/25 audit plan be approved; and
 - (3) that the progress of the 'green' actions and the current position in relation to the National Fraud Initiative exercise be noted.
- 471 External Audit Action Plans – Current Actions 471**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on the status of current External Audit actions at 31 August 2024.
- Decided:** that the progress made in the implementation of External Audit actions be noted.
- 472 Internal Audit 472**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive advising of a change in the reporting line for Internal Audit and that, after review and in preparation for the recruitment of a new Chief Financial Officer, Internal Audit will form part of the remit of the Chief Financial Officer from 1 January 2025.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the transfer of the Internal Audit function from Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to Finance Services from 1 January 2025 be noted;
 - (2) that it be noted that the Council's Governance documents will be amended as required to reflect this structural change;
 - (3) that it be noted that an update on the shared management arrangement for Internal Audit is intended to be reported to the December meeting of Inverclyde Council; and
 - (4) that it be agreed that this report be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee for information.
- 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 4, 6 & 14 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**
- 473 Appendix relative to Item 2 providing information on special investigations 473**
- There was submitted an appendix to the Internal Audit progress report providing information on a special investigation.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the contents of the appendix be noted; and
 - (2) that it be remitted to officers to provide a further report on the matter referred to in the appendix, all as detailed in the private appendix to this minute.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 24 OCTOBER 2024

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 24 October 2024 at 4:00pm

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

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Lynsey Brown	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Craig Given	Chief Finance Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (for 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)
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Angela Edmiston	Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Strategic Finance)
Gerard Smith	Principal Accountant (Capital Assets)
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Emma Peacock	Solicitor, Legal Services
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

In attendance also:

Michael Wilkie	KPMG (External Auditors)
Taimoor Alam	KPMG (External Auditors)

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

474 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

474

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Armstrong and Nelson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

475 2023/24 Annual Audit Report and Best Value Thematic Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit

475

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 2024 for consideration.

There were circulated copies of an addendum containing proposals for revised

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 24 OCTOBER 2024

recommendations to the report, which were further amended verbally at the meeting by the Chief Financial Officer, and accordingly revised recommendation 2.4 in the addendum should read 'It is recommended that the Council note the potential material prior year adjustment advised by the External Auditors at today's meeting in respect of the Pension Fund liabilities and, that on the basis this has no impact on the 31 March 2024 position reported in the accounts in Appendix 3 , authorise the Chief Financial Officer to make the necessary adjustments, if required, as part of the delegated authority requested in 2.6 below.' (the verbal amendment being that as underlined).

Mr Wilkie from KPMG spoke to the report and commented on the status of the Pension Fund liabilities relating to the previous Annual Audit for 2022/23 and the net presentation of funded and unfunded liabilities. Mr Wilkie advised that due to the funded and unfunded pension liabilities not being presented separately in 2022/23 that assessments would be undertaken by both Inverclyde Council and KPMG as to whether this required a restatement for the year 2022/23. Mr Wilkie emphasised that this matter had been resolved for the current year and therefore the current years closing financial position as presented was correct.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the Best Value Thematic Report will also be considered at the next meeting of the Audit Committee in January 2025;
- (2) that the Action Plans, as contained within the Annual Audit Report, and the Best Value Thematic Report be approved;
- (3) that the potential material prior year adjustment advised by the External Auditors at the meeting in respect of the Pension Fund liabilities be noted and, that on the basis this has no impact on the 31 March 2024 position reported in the accounts at appendix 3 to the report, the Chief Financial Officer be authorised to make necessary adjustments, if required, as part of the delegated authority requested in decision (5) below;
- (4) 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;
- (5) that (a) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Financial Officer to make any non-material adjustments which may arise from the remaining audit work, and (b) the signing of the Annual Accounts for Inverclyde Council for the Financial Year 2023/24 by the Council Leader, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer be approved;
- (6) that it be remitted to officers to present a final set of accounts to the next meeting of the Council for noting; and
- (7) that the Council's thanks to the Chief Financial Officer and his team be noted.

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 29 OCTOBER 2024

Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 29 October 2024 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Clocherty (for Cassidy), Daisley, Jackson, McCabe and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor Brennan presided.

In attendance:

Kate Rocks	Chief Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP)
Vicky Pollock	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)
Katrina Phillips	Interim Head of Mental Health and Alcohol & Drug Recovery Services (Inverclyde HSCP)
Gail Hughes	Interim Service Manager for Justice Social Work (Inverclyde HSCP)
Emma Bilsland	Child and Planning Improvement Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Arlene Mailey	Service Manager, Quality & Development Service (Inverclyde HSCP)
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Peter MacDonald	Solicitor, Legal Services
Alison Ramsey	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Provost McKenzie and Councillors Daisley, Jackson and McCabe attending remotely.

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

476 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 476

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Cassidy with Councillor Clocherty substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

477 Revenue & Capital Budget Report – 2024/25 Revenue Outturn Position as at 31 August 2024 477

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 2024/25 as at 31 August 2024.

Decided:

(1) that the projected current year revenue outturn of £0.246million overspend at 31 August 2024 be noted;

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 29 OCTOBER 2024

- (2) that the current projected capital position be noted; and
- (3) that the current reserves position be noted.

478 National Care Service Update 478

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) the deadline for submitting views on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill Stage 2 amendments was extended to 20 November 2024; and
- (2) a further report will be provided to a future meeting.

Decided: that the verbal report be noted.

479 Inverclyde HSCP Adult Services Staff Innovation Projects 479

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership notifying the Panel of the ongoing development of projects driven through staff innovation, as detailed in the document 'The Lens: Inverclyde HSCP Adult Services: Ideas to Action Programme Evaluation Report July 2024' a copy of which was appended to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the staff innovation projects (a) Community First, (b) Diabetes Prevention Support Programme, (c) My Inclusive Digi Support (Planning and Reviewing), (d) Little Acorns, and (e) Inverclyde Inclusive Radio, be noted; and
- (2) that the thanks and appreciation of the Panel be extended to all staff connected with these projects.

480 Inspection of Inverclyde Fostering, Adoption and Continuing Care Services 480

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing the Panel with an update on the action plans developed following the Care Inspectorate's recent inspection of adoption, fostering and continuing care services in Inverclyde, these inspection reports having been considered at the previous meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the action plans are noted; and
- (2) that the thanks and appreciation of the Panel be extended to all staff connected with this service.

481 Notice of Self-Evaluation in Justice Social Work 481

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising of a national self-evaluation of Justice Social Work led by the Care Inspectorate to take place between September and November 2024, which will focus on self-evaluation of performance and quality assurance within Justice Social Work with a validation phase during January and February 2025.

Decided:

- (1) that the planned review of social work governance and assurance be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to provide a further report following publication of the national review report.

482 Community Payback Order Annual Report 2023-24**482**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising the Panel of the requirement to submit an annual Community Payback Order report to the Scottish Government and appending a copy of the report.

Decided: that the content of the Community Payback Order Annual Report 2023-24 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.

483 Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations**483**

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 20 July 2024 to 27 September 2024 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.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 31 OCTOBER 2024

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 31 October 2024 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor McCormick presided.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Lynsey Brown	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Neale McIlvanney	Head of Service - Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection
David Aitken	Procurement Manager
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Julie Ann Wilson	Principal Accountant
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance and Communications Manager

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock.

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

484 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

484

No apologies for absence were intimated.

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

Agenda Item 5 (Annual Procurement Report) – Councillors Cassidy and Clocherty.

Agenda Item 7 (Local Housing Strategy Update) – Councillor Curley.

Agenda Item 8 (Inverclyde Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2025-30) – Councillors Brooks and Curley.

Agenda Item 13 (Contract Awards 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024) – Councillor Robertson.

Agenda Item 20 (Governance of External Organisations) – Councillors Clocherty, Curley and Jackson.

485 2024/25 Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget

485

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director Environment & Regeneration advising the Committee of (1) the Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget 2024/25, and (2) details of actions being taken to reduce the projected overspend.

Decided:

(1) that the following be noted, (a) the Committee's Revenue Budget projected overspend in 2024/25 of £218,000, and (b) the actions being taken by the Director to reduce the projected overspend in 2024/25 and recurring budget pressures from 2025/26;

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 31 OCTOBER 2024

- (2) that the virement as proposed in appendix 5 to the report be approved; and
 (3) that (a) the on-going reviews being progressed by the Director be noted, and (b) it be noted that updates will be provided to future meetings of the Committee.

486 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme 2024/28 – Progress 486

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 2024/28 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position and the progress on the specific projects of the 2024/28 Capital Programme and externally funded projects as outlined 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 Core Property budget be noted;
 (3) that the on-going work in respect of the further identification of projects relating to Net Zero and allocation of funds from the Net Zero Capital budget be noted;
 (4) that the progression of the project at the Waterfront Leisure Complex outlined in section 3.16 of the report be noted and approved; and
 (5) that (a) the withdrawal of £200k Placed Based Funding for the Dunrod Road project as outlined in sections 3.38 and 5.3 of the report be noted, and (b) that it be noted that Officers are exploring options to address the funding gap.

487 Environment and Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report 487

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the progress made in the delivery of the Environment and 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.

488 Annual Procurement Report 488

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 2023 to 31 March 2024, and (2) seeking approval to publish the Annual Procurement Report as detailed in appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Cassidy declared a connection as a relative sits on the board of an organisation mentioned in the report, and Councillor Clocherty declared a connection as a Member of the Board of the Inverclyde Community Development Trust. 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 they were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the Annual Procurement Report, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, be approved for publication to the Scottish Government and on the Council's website;
 (2) that the latest procurement compliant spend position and spend with SMEs and local suppliers be noted;
 (3) that the commitment to Fair Work First and community benefits secured for delivery by suppliers during the reporting period 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024 be noted; and
 (4) that the significant savings secured during 2023/24 and the on-going work in this area be noted.

- 489 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update 489**
- There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the progress of the Inverclyde projects funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the progress to date be noted;
 - (2) that due to the loss of Nature Restoration funding the virement of £50,000 from 'Local Business' to 'Communities and Place' be approved; and
 - (3) that the anticipated underspend against Multiply projects of £367,941 be noted.
- 490 Local Housing Strategy Update 490**
- There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the delivery of the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028. Councillor Curley declared a connection as a Member of the Board of River Clyde Homes until 16 October 2024. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence at the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and he was declaring for transparency.
- Decided:** that the progress on implementation of the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 be noted.
- 491 Inverclyde Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2025-30 491**
- There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2025-30. Councillor Brooks declared a connection as a Member of the Board of River Clyde Homes, and Councillor Curley declared a connection as a Member of the Board of River Clyde Homes until 16 October 2024. They also formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence at the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and they were declaring for transparency.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for the five-year period from 2025-2030 for submission to the Scottish Government by Inverclyde Council be approved; and
 - (2) that the content and projects included in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2025-2030, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, be noted.
- 492 Town Centre Action Plans 492**
- There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for the Town Centre Action Plans.
- Decided:** that (a) the Town Centre Action Plans be approved, and (b) delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration for any drafting changes required prior to publication.
- 493 Tree Management and Planting Strategy 493**
- There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the Council's proposed tree planting strategy.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the aims and objectives of the Tree Growing Strategy be noted; and

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 31 OCTOBER 2024

(2) that the development of larger scale tree projects, as funding is made available, be noted.

494 Single Use Vapes**494**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on (1) the progress by officers in tackling the negative health and environmental impacts of vapes, (2) education and awareness raising, and (3) monitoring and enforcement activities undertaken to reduce the prevalence of vaping.

Councillors Reynolds was present as a Member with a specific interest in the item, having submitted a motion to the meeting of the Inverclyde Council of 28 September 2023 titled 'Disposable Vapes' and, with the consent of the Convenor, participated in the debate.

Decided:

1. that the progress on (a) controlling the sale of vapes, (b) actions taken in Inverclyde to deliver health education and monitoring, and (c) prevention measures related to the sale of vaping equipment, be noted.

2. that it be agreed to issue the letter attached as appendix 3 to the report to the Scottish Government to support additional regulatory, education and monitoring to prevent the use of vapes, subject to any further amendments to address the concerns raised by Councillor Reynolds, if required.

495 Introduction of Recycling Services to Households**495**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration advising of the intention to improve Inverclyde's recycling performance by extending recycling services to tenemental and communal properties which are not currently in receipt of recycling services, in order to assist with derogation targets.

Decided: that it be noted that Officers will take the following actions, (a) undertake the communication measures identified in the report and communicate the new recycling services to householders, (b) implement the new services as noted in the report, (c) monitor and measure the impact of all recycling measures and take appropriate intervention actions, and (d) continue to explore opportunities to increase recycling provision across Inverclyde.

496 Contract Awards – 1 April to 30 September 2024**496**

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 2024 to 30 September 2024.

Councillor Robertson declared a connection as a Member of the Board of Financial Fitness. 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 she was declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the contracts awarded by the Council during the period 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024 be noted.

497 Annual Assurance Statement**497**

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 2024/25 be approved.

498 Consultation Response – Gourock Ferries**498**

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 31 OCTOBER 2024

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the submission made by Inverclyde Council to the Transport Scotland consultation on ferry services provision from Gourock to Dunoon and Roseneath.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

499 Road Naming within New Development at Site of Former Greenock Health Centre, Duncan Street, Greenock 499

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval to name a new road being created within the residential development on the site of the former Greenock Health Centre, Duncan Street, Greenock.

Decided: that it be agreed to name the road in the new development at the former Greenock Health Centre, 'George Dougan Place'.

500 Property Asset Management - Public Report; Update re Proposed sale of 5 Kempock Place, Gourock; Baker Street, Greenock; and Former Glenbrae Children's Centre, Greenock 500

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration (1) advising that negotiations for the proposed sale of 5 Kempock Street, Gourock have terminated and requesting authority to remarket it, (2) requesting authority to market the site at Baker Street, Greenock on the basis of a sale as well as a lease, and (3) requesting authority to remarket the former Glenbrae Children's Centre, Glenbrae Road, Greenock.

Decided:

(1) that delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to (a) terminate all negotiations with the proposed purchaser of 5 Kempock Place, Gourock, and (b) start a new marketing campaign seeking offers for a sale of the property, following which a report on any offers received will be brought back to the Committee for a final decision;

(2) that delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to advertise the site of the former roads depot, Baker Street, Greenock on the basis of a sale as well as a lease, and on the basis set out in the body of the report; and

(3) that delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to remarket the former Glenbrae Children's Centre and site, on the basis set out in the body of the report.

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)
Clune Park – Update	9
Property Asset Management Private Report – (1) Update on the proposed sale of the site of the former Holy Cross Primary School; and (2) Proposal to include additional land in the sale of 80 Leven Road, Greenock	6, 8 & 9
Governance of External Organisations	6

501 Clune Park – Update**501**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the current position in relation to the Clune Park Estate as part of the regular reporting requirements.

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

502 Property Asset Management Private Report – (1) Update on the proposed sale of the site of the former Holy Cross Primary School; and (2) Proposal to include additional land in the sale of 80 Leven Road, Greenock**502**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration (1) advising the Committee of activities relating to the management of the Council's property assets and (2) making recommendations in this regard.

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

503 Governance of External Organisations**503**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update of the governance arrangements in place for external organisations within the remit of the Committee.

Councillors Clocherty, Curley and Jackson declared connections as members of the board of organisations mentioned in the report. 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: that the contents of the report be noted.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 5 NOVEMBER 2024

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 5 November 2024 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Curley, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, and Rev D Burt, Church Representative, Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative, and Ms F MacDonald, Parent Representative.

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)
Sarah Christie	Cultural Services Manager
Yvonne Gallacher	Quality Improvement Manager – Early Years, Education Services
Adam Stephenson	Education Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Curley and Wilson, Ms McEwan and Ms MacDonald attending remotely.

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

504 **Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

504

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Reynolds, with Councillor Curley substituting.

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

Agenda Item 5 (Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

Agenda Item 7 (Community Grants Fund 2024/25 – Round 1) – Councillors Armstrong, Clocherty, McGuire, Quinn and Robertson

Agenda Item 12 (Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives) – Councillor Quinn

Agenda Item 17 (Governance of External Organisations) – Councillors Armstrong, Clocherty, Quinn and Robertson

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 5 NOVEMBER 2024

- 505 2024/25 Communities Revenue Budget Update 505**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the projected position of the 2024/25 Communities Revenue Budget.
- Decided:**
- (1) that it be noted that the Committee's Revenue Budget is currently projected to overspend in 2024/25 by £46,000 (0.8%); and
 - (2) that it be noted that the Corporate Director continues to seek ways to reduce the overspend and that progress will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 506 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items 506**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing performance information for the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Communities Capital Programme and Asset related items.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the current position of the 2024/28 Capital Programme be noted; and
 - (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (b) King George VI Community Hub, (c) Boglestone Community Centre – Childcare Early Adopter Project, (d) Parklea Branching Out, and (e) the Asset Transfer Working Group updates on (i) Wellington Allotments, (ii) KGV Bowling Club, (iii) Coppermine (Scouts), (iv) Larkfield waste ground/Larkfield Guerilla Gardens (Banff Road/Fife Drive), and (v) Broomhill Way shop unit/Broomhill Beats.
- 507 Active Schools Performance 2023/24 507**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) informing the Committee of the Active Schools team performance for the school year 2023/24, and (2) seeking approval for the mandatory accreditation of all affiliated clubs.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, in particular the improvements in performance in 2023/24; and
 - (2) that the mandatory use of the Active Schools/Sports Development Safe Club Accreditation scheme be agreed.
- 508 Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 508**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Communities aspects of the 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:**
- (1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Locality Planning: Community Conversations Week, (b) Early Adopter Community for Affordable Childcare, (c) Fairer Futures Partnership, (d) Duke of Edinburgh Award, (e) Summer Programme 2024, (f)

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Battery Park Lighting project, (g) independent review of Community Learning and Development (CLD) in Scotland, (h) Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report, (i) Inverclyde Leisure Memorandum and Articles of Association, (j) Inverclyde Libraries Supporting Realistic Medicine, (k) Green Libraries Week, (l) Summer Reading Challenge, (m) Heard in the Library – School Library Improvement Fund, (n) Galoshans Festival 10th Anniversary, (o) Inverclyde Music Service, concerts, competitions and events, and (p) The Watt Institution;

(2) that the new three-year Duke of Edinburgh Award licence be agreed and that the contribution of the Duke of Edinburgh Inverclyde Support Group be noted; and

(3) that it be remitted to officers to consult with Inverclyde Leisure and review the proposed change to Article 5.4, as detailed in the report, which would reduce the period in which a company employee can sit on the Board from 36 months to 12 months, and submit a further report on this matter to the Committee at the next meeting.

509 Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action Report 2024/25 509

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of the progress of the Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action Report and Action Plan for Year 6 (2024/25) which outlines the strategic direction for reducing child poverty in Inverclyde.

Decided:

(1) that the contents of the report be noted; and

(2) that the key successes in reducing child poverty in Inverclyde as detailed in the report be noted.

510 Community Grants Fund 2024/25 – Round 1 510

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing details of the applications received and grants awarded to voluntary and community organisations by the Grants Sub-Committee as part of round 1 of the Community Grants Fund 2024/25.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, Councillor Armstrong declared a connection as a member of the Board of Inverclyde Voluntary Council of Social Service, Councillor Robertson declared a connection as a member of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild, and Councillor McGuire declared a connection as Chairperson of Inverclyde Youth for Christ and part of the leadership team of 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.

511 Community Learning and Development Partnership (CLD) 3 Year Plan 2024-27 511

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the new Community Learning and Development Partnership (CLD) 3 Year Plan 2024-27, a copy of which was made available through an electronic link on the report having previously been approved by the Alliance Board on 7 October 2024.

Decided: that the Committee notes (a) the new Community Learning and Development Partnership (CLD) 3 Year Plan 2024-27, and (b) that the Plan was approved by the

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 5 NOVEMBER 2024

Alliance Board on 7 October 2024.

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)
Governance of External Organisations	6
King George VI Community Hub - Update	6 & 9

512	Governance of External Organisations	512
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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the governance arrangements for Inverclyde Leisure, Beacon Arts Centre, Inverclyde Voluntary Council for Social Services (IVCSS) and community centres and hubs which receive annual revenue from the Council.

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 and Councillor Robertson declared a connection as a Board Member of Greenock Arts Guild. 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: following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended in the report, all as detailed in the private appendix.

513	King George VI Community Hub - Update	513
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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing the Committee with an update on the progress of the King George VI Community Hub project.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

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

The Communities business concluded at 3.40pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Ms McEwan and Ms MacDonald joining the meeting remotely.

514	2024/25 Education Revenue Budget Update	514
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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the projected position of the 2024/25 Education Revenue Budget including details of actions being taken to reduce the projected overspend.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee notes (a) the Education Revenue Budget is currently

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 5 NOVEMBER 2024

projected to overspend in 2024/25 by £370,000, and (b) the action proposed to address the projected overspend; and

(2) that it be noted that proposals to address the underlying budget pressure will be presented to a future Committee meeting.

515 Education Capital Programme 2024/28 - Progress

515

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 2024/28 Capital programme be noted; and
 (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) general lifecycle works, (b) Public Private Partnership (PPP) Schools, (c) Estate Lifecycle Programme 2024/25, (d) Artificial Pitches Asset Plan, (e) Active Plan Refresh, and (f) Net Zero.

516 Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report

516

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 Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted.

Councillor Wilson rejoined the meeting at this juncture.

517 Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives

517

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on local and national projects and initiatives linked to education.

Councillor Quinn declared a connection as her son is a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament. 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: that the updates on the following be noted (a) Care Inspectorate inspection outcome for Madeira Nursery and Kilmacolm Primary School's Nursery Class, (b) education reform, (c) Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessments, (d) Scottish Attainment Challenge, (e) Promoting Positive Relationships policy, (f) Secondary Gaelic Medium Education (GME) progress, (g) teacher numbers, and (h) representation of the voice of young people on the Education & Communities Committee.

518 Review of ELC Admissions – Including Eligibility for ELC Term after Second/Third Birthday

518

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising Committee of the feedback from the latest

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 5 NOVEMBER 2024

review of admissions policy and allocation of places undertaken in September 2024, and (2) setting out a proposal to amend the admissions policy for eligible two and three-year old children to revert to the statutory Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) requirement of starting the term after their second/third birthday from the current provision of the month after their second/third birthday.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed changes to the ELC admissions policy, as detailed in the report be agreed;
- (2) that it be agreed to change the allocation of children's entitlement to ELC in line with the Scottish Government expectation that an eligible child starts the term after their second/third birthday; and
- (3) that it be agreed that the aforementioned changes to the ELC admissions policy be implemented for the 2025 admissions process.

519 Attendance Strategy 2024-26

519

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) presenting the strategy for improving attendance at schools for 2024/26, a copy of which was appended to the report, and (2) providing further data around attendance as requested by Elected Members.

Decided: that the Attendance Strategy for 2024-26 be approved.

520 A Review of Provision of Early Years in Newark Nursery School

520

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking agreement for an informal consultation with key stakeholders in Newark Nursery School in order to develop a clear proposal for a possible statutory consultation.

Decided: that approval be given to a pre-consultation exercise in relation to Newark Nursery School in order to inform a potential statutory consultation in early 2025.

521 Update on West Partnership

521

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) detailing the progress over the academic year 2023-24 towards achieving each of the associated target outcomes and expected impacts detailed in the West Partnership Improvement Plan for 2023-24, and (2) seeking approval to continue collaboration with the West Partnership following an announcement from the Scottish Government in November 2023 that it would no longer fund Regional Improvement Collaboratives, noting the intention of partners within the West Partnership to continue collaboration beyond 2025.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the Improvement Plan; and
- (3) that approval be given to (a) Inverclyde Education Services remaining as part of the West Partnership beyond 2025, and (b) the allocation of £11,200 from the Strategic Equity (Attainment Challenge) Fund to resource participation.

PLANNING BOARD – 6 NOVEMBER 2024

Planning Board

Wednesday 6 November 2024 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor McVey presided.

In attendance:

Neale McIlvanney	Head of Service - Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection
Daniel Henderson	Planning and Building Standards Service Manager
Elaine Provan	Supervisory Engineer – Traffic & Transportation
Steven Walker	Service Manager – Roads
Emma Peacock	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Daisley and Law 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

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Crowther, with Councillor Daisley substituting, and Councillor McCabe.

There were no declarations of interest.

523 PLANNING APPLICATIONS 523

- (a) Change of use of offices on first floor and attic floor to 6 serviced accommodation units for short term lets; external alterations including alterations of windows and installation of slate vents within the roof:
20A Union Street, Greenock (24/0156/IC)**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration for a change of use of offices on first floor and attic floor to 6 serviced accommodation units for short term lets; external alterations including alterations of windows and installation of slate vents within the roof at 20A Union Street, Greenock (24/0156/IC).

After discussion, Councillors Brooks moved that planning permission be refused on the grounds of the proposal's unacceptable negative impact on local amenity.

As an amendment, Councillor Curley moved that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions contained in the report.

Following a roll call vote, 5 Members, Councillors Brooks, Daisley, Jackson, Law and McVey voted in favour of the motion and 5 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Clocherty, Curley and McGuire voted in favour of the amendment. There being equality in voting the Chair exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion which was declared carried.

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Decided: that planning permission be refused on the grounds of the proposal's unacceptable negative impact on local amenity.

**(b) Erection of detached house and detached garage (renewal of previous planning permission 21/0132/IC):
Ardvaar, Wemyss Bay Road, Wemyss Bay (24/0193/IC)**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration for the erection of a detached house and detached garage (renewal of previous planning permission 21/0132/IC) at Ardvaar, Wemyss Bay Road, Wemyss Bay (24/0193/IC)

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

- (1) that 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);
- (2) that development shall not commence until full details of boundary treatments between the site of the existing dwellinghouse at Ardvaar and the dwellinghouse hereby approved have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The approved boundary treatments shall be fully implemented prior to the dwellinghouse being first occupied unless otherwise agreed in advance in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure that an appropriate boundary treatment is provided in the interests of visual amenity;
- (3) that development shall not commence until full details of all external facing materials to be used on the development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The approved materials shall thereafter be used unless a variation is approved in writing by the Planning Authority, to enable the Planning Authority to retain effective control of facing and finishing materials in the interests of visual amenity;
- (4) that for the avoidance of doubt, all surface water flows are to be contained and managed within the site and any run-off from the site shall be limited to not exceed greenfield run-off rates, to ensure the development does not increase the risk of flooding to neighbouring properties or to Wemyss Bay Road;
- (5) that the dwellinghouse hereby approved shall be designed to ensure that at least 25% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation and operation of low and zero carbon energy generating technologies. Details showing how this shall be achieved shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to the construction of the dwellinghouse, to comply with the requirements of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;
- (6) that the dwellinghouse hereby approved shall include at least one trickle charging point made accessible for the charging of electric vehicles. Details of the charging point shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The approved details shall be implemented prior to the first occupation of the house, to ensure adequate provision is made to encourage the use of electric vehicles;
- (7) that the dwellinghouse hereby permitted shall not be occupied until two off-street parking spaces, each measuring a minimum of 3.0m x 5.5m have been provided within the site, to ensure suitable parking provision is provided for the new development in the interests of road safety;
- (8) that for the avoidance of doubt, the driveway and garage access hereby permitted shall be paved for a minimum distance of 10m adjacent to Wemyss Bay Road and the driveway gradient shall not exceed 10%, to ensure the provision of adequate driveways and to prevent loose material being carried onto the road; and
- (9) that the discovery of any contamination or made ground (>1m³) that becomes evident during site works shall be brought to the attention of the Planning Authority, works shall cease immediately, and the site made safe. Works shall not continue until a Remediation Scheme has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the Planning

PLANNING BOARD – 6 NOVEMBER 2024

Authority, to ensure that all contamination issues are recorded and dealt with appropriately.

**(c) Change of use from shop to hot food takeaway and installation of extract flue at side (extract flue in retrospect):
58 Maple Road, Greenock (24/0163/IC)**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration for the change of use from shop to hot food takeaway and installation of extract flue at side (in retrospect) at 58 Maple Road, Greenock (24/0163/IC).

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

(1) that the development to which this permission relates must be 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 use of the hot food takeaway hereby approved, the applicant shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority, the exact details and specification of the ventilation and extraction systems to serve the hot food takeaway, including the proposed odour mitigation measures. For the avoidance of doubt the details and specification to be submitted shall include:

(a) the exhaust point of the ventilation system being situated at a point most distant from opening windows of neighbouring residential properties and taking cognisance of the environmental conditions in the area including the immediate topography of the area;

(b) ensuring that the exhaust air is expelled from the exit point at sufficient temperature/velocity to ensure it is taken away from nearby residential properties. The exit point should be at least 1 m above roof level;

(c) the maintenance/management scheme for the ventilation and filtration system;

(d) the mechanical and electrical installations being arranged to ensure that the ventilation system operates during periods when the premises are open for the preparation and/or cooking of food; and

(e) the ventilation, filtration and extraction systems shall then be implemented as approved with the systems retained and maintained/managed for as long as the premises remain as a hot food takeaway.

To protect residents from nuisance resulting from cooking odours; and

(3) that prior to the commencement of any construction works on site, the developer shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority, full details of the containers to be used to store waste materials and recyclable materials produced on the premises as well as specific details of the areas where such containers are to be located. The use of the development shall not commence until the above details are approved in writing by the Planning Authority and the equipment and any structural changes are in place, to protect the amenity of the immediate area, prevent the creation of nuisance due to odours, insects, rodents or birds.

524 Notification of Application Made to the Scottish Ministers Under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989

524

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration on the decision of Scottish Ministers in relation to the application by Apatura (GPC 700 Ltd) under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the installation of a battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure with a generating capacity of up to 700MW at land at Auchentiber Road, Port Glasgow.

Decided: that the Board notes the decision made by the Scottish Ministers to grant consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to install a

PLANNING BOARD – 6 NOVEMBER 2024

battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure with a generating capacity of up to 700MW at land at Auchentiber Road, Port Glasgow.

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 6 NOVEMBER 2024

Local Review Body

Wednesday 6 November 2024 at 4pm

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

Chair: Councillor McVey presided.

In attendance:

Margaret Pickett	Senior Planner (Planning Adviser)
Emma Peacock	Solicitor (Legal Adviser)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock.

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

525 APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 525

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

No declarations of interest were intimated.

526 CONTINUED PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW 526

**(a) Erection of outbuilding/garden room at rear:
20 Castle Wemyss Drive, Wemyss Bay (23/0294/IC)**

There was submitted papers relative to the application for review for the erection of an outbuilding/garden room at rear at 20 Castle Wemyss Drive, Wemyss Bay (23/0294/IC) to enable the Local Review Body to consider the matter afresh, consideration of which had been continued from the meeting held on 4 September 2024 for an unaccompanied site visit.

Prior to the commencement of this item of business, Councillors Brooks indicated that he was not entitled to take part in consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, having not been present at previous considerations, and left the meeting.

Not having participated in consideration of this item of business at the meeting of 4 September 2024, Councillor McGuire was not entitled to take part in consideration of this item and left the meeting.

Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, McVey and Moran participated in this item of business.

Ms Pickett acted as Planning Adviser relative to this case.

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

1. the height, size and elevated position of the outbuilding results in an overbearing and visually dominant development at this location that has an adverse visual impact on the site and immediate surrounding area; fails to improve the quality of the surrounding area; is therefore poorly designed ; and does not meet the quality of being 'Pleasant' in

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 6 NOVEMBER 2024

Policy 14(b) of National Planning Framework 4. The proposal is therefore contrary to the terms of Policy 14 of National Planning Framework 4;

2. as a result of the height, size and elevated position the outbuilding will have a detrimental impact on the character of the home and the surrounding area as well as having a detrimental impact on the neighbouring properties contrary to Policy 16 of National Planning Framework 4;

3. as a result of the height, size and elevated position the outbuilding fails to reflect local urban form and character. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policy 1 of the adopted and the proposed Inverclyde Local Development Plans; and

4. as a result of the height, size and elevated position the outbuilding will have a negative impact on the amenity and the character of the immediate area. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policy 20 of the proposed Inverclyde Local Development Plan.

As an amendment, Councillor Moran moved that (1) sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the meeting without further procedure; and (2) the application for review be upheld and that planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:

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); and

2. the windows on the front elevation of the outbuilding/garden room as shown on drawing PL-001 Rev B shall be glazed with obscure glass prior to the development being brought into first use/occupied. The obscure glass shall be retained in position and shall not be removed unless approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Development shall not commence until a sample of the obscure glass has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, to protect the privacy of the adjacent property and to prevent overlooking.

Following a roll call vote, 2 Members, Councillors Clocherty and Moran voted in favour of the amendment and 3 Members, Councillors Crowther, Curley and McVey 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 dismissed and that planning permission be refused (upholding the Appointed Officer's determination) for the following reasons:

3. the height, size and elevated position of the outbuilding results in an overbearing and visually dominant development at this location that has an adverse visual impact on the site and immediate surrounding area; fails to improve the quality of the surrounding area; is therefore poorly designed; and does not meet the quality of being 'Pleasant' in Policy 14(b) of National Planning Framework 4. The proposal is therefore contrary to the terms of Policy 14 of National Planning Framework 4;

4. as a result of the height, size and elevated position the outbuilding will have a detrimental impact on the character of the home and the surrounding area as well as having a detrimental impact on the neighbouring properties contrary to Policy 16 of National Planning Framework 4;

5. as a result of the height, size and elevated position the outbuilding fails to reflect local urban form and character. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policy 1 of the adopted and the proposed Inverclyde Local Development Plans; and

6. as a result of the height, size and elevated position the outbuilding will have a negative impact on the amenity and the character of the immediate area. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policy 20 of the proposed Inverclyde Local Development Plan.

Councillor McGuire returned to the meeting at this juncture.

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 6 NOVEMBER 2024

**(b) Erection of hall building adjacent to and to the west of the existing pavilion building:
Gourock Park Bowling Club, Larkfield Road, Gourock (24/0077/IC)**

There was submitted papers relative to the application for review for the erection of a hall building adjacent to and to the west of the existing pavilion building at Gourock Park Bowling Club, Larkfield Road, Gourock (24/0077/IC) to enable the Local Review Body to consider the matter afresh, consideration of which had been continued from the meeting held on 2 October 2024 to request a written submission from the appointed officer.

Not having participated in consideration of this item of business at the meeting of 2 October 2024, Councillor Moran was not entitled to take part in consideration of this item and left the meeting.

Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, McGuire and McVey participated in this item of business.

Ms Pickett acted as Planning Adviser relative to this case.

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 conditions and advisory notes:

Conditions

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);
2. prior to the start of development, details of a survey for the presence of Japanese Knotweed shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority and that, for the avoidance of doubt; this shall contain a methodology and treatment statement where any is found. Development shall not proceed until appropriate control measures are implemented. Any significant variation to the treatment methodology shall be submitted for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation, to help arrest the spread of Japanese Knotweed in the interests of environmental protection;
3. the development shall not commence until an Environmental Investigation and Risk Assessment, including any necessary Remediation Scheme with timescale for implementation, of all pollutant linkages has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the Planning Authority. The investigations and assessment shall be site specific and completed in accordance with current codes of practice. The submission shall also include a Verification Plan. Any subsequent modifications to the Remediation Scheme and Verification Plan must be approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation, to satisfactorily address potential contamination issues in the interests of human health and environmental safety;
4. before the development hereby permitted is occupied the applicant shall submit a report for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority, confirming that the works have been completed in accordance with the agreed Remediation Scheme and supply information as agreed in the Verification Plan. This report shall demonstrate that no pollutant linkages remain or are likely to occur and include (but not limited to) a collation of verification/validation certificates, analysis information, remediation lifespan, maintenance/aftercare information and details of all materials imported onto the site as fill or landscaping material. The details of such materials shall include information of the material source, volume, intended use and chemical quality with plans delineating placement and thickness, to ensure contamination is not imported to the site and confirm successful completion of remediation measures in the interest of human health and environmental safety;
5. the presence of any previously unrecorded contamination or variation to

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 6 NOVEMBER 2024

anticipated ground conditions that becomes evident during site works shall be brought to the attention of the Planning Authority and a Remediation Scheme shall not be implemented unless it has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure that all contamination issues are recorded and dealt with appropriately;

6. the development hereby permitted shall be designed to ensure that at least 25% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation and operation of low and zero carbon generating technologies. Details showing how this shall be achieved shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to the construction of the building, to comply with the requirements of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;

7. development shall not commence until full details of all external materials and finishes to be used in the development have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Development shall then proceed utilising the approved materials and finishes unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure an appropriate range of finishing materials are provided in the interests of visual amenity; and

8. for the avoidance of doubt all surface water run-off from the development is to be contained within the site and be limited to that of greenfield run-off, in the interests of sustainable drainage.

Advisory Notes

1. the applicant/developer is advised the display of signs on the hall building may require a separate Advertisement Consent;

2. the applicant/developer is advised all external lighting on the application site should comply with the Scottish Government Guidance Note "Controlling Light Pollution and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption";

3. the applicant/developer should be fully aware of the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015) and its implications on client duties etc.;

4. it is recommended that prior to the commencement of any works the applicant/developer consults with Officers of Public Protection to ensure structural compliance with legislation relating to:

(a) Food Safety Legislation,

(b) Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974; and

5. the applicant/development is advised to submit a a Pre-Development Enquiry (PDE) Form to be submitted directly to Scottish Water via their Customer Portal prior to any formal Technical Application being submitted.

General Purposes BoardWednesday 13 November 2024 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Cassidy, Curley, Jackson, 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 Officer
Crawford Brown	Civic Enforcement Officer
Janet Stitt	Team Leader - Public Health & Housing
Andrew McKay	Housing Officer

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

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

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

527 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 527

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson with no substitution.

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

Agenda Item 5 (Application for Registration of Private Landlord) – Councillor Curley and Reynolds.

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.

528 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence 528

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider an application for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence which was granted, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

529 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence 529

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider an application for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence. This item was not called, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

530 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence**530**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider an application for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence which was granted, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

531 Application for Registration of Private Landlord**531**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Environment and Regeneration requesting the Board to consider the application for Landlord Registration which as continued to a future meeting, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

Councillor Curley and Reynolds declared connections as registered landlords. 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.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 19 NOVEMBER 2024

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor McGuire 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
Lynsey Brown	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP)
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Angela Edmiston	Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Strategic Finance)
Tracy Bunton	Revenues and Benefits Manager
Allan McDonald	ICT & Customer Service Manager
Gerard Smith	Capital Assets Principal Accountant
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance and Communications Manager

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock.

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

532 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

532

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

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

Agenda Item 8 (Governance of External Organisations – Annual Update and Review) – Councillors Armstrong, Curley, Law and Robertson.

533 2024/25 Policy & Resources and General Fund Revenue Budget

533

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 Policy & Resources Revenue Budget 2024/25 projected position (2) the projected overspend in the overall General Fund Revenue Budget and (3) the impact this will have on the General Fund Reserve.

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Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend in the Committee's Revenue Budget for 2024/25 of £304,000, a reduction of £96,000 since the last report, be noted;
- (2) that the projected overspend of £1,012,000 for the General Fund and the projected reserve balance of £3,402,000 be noted;
- (3) that the projected 2024/25 surplus of £10,800 for the Common Good Budget as set out in appendix 5 to the report be noted; and
- (4) that it be noted that the Savings Workstream programme update is provided as part of the Budget Update report later in the agenda.

534 Policy & Resources Capital Budget and Council 2024/28 Capital Programme 534

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing the latest position of the Policy & Resources Capital Programme and the 2024/28 Capital Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2024/28 Policy & Resources Capital Budget and the current position of the 2024/28 Capital Programme be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed to replace £514,000 allocated from revenue reserves to support the 2024/28 Capital Programme with the £514,000 capital grant received relating to the phased implementation of P6/7 Free School Meals;
- (3) that it be noted that there is a proposal in the private papers of this agenda to allocate funding from the capital contingency to the King George VI capital project; and
- (4) that it be remitted to officers to provide a report to a future meeting of the Committee giving consideration to additional funding from the Capital Programme contingency being set aside for future investment needs within the Beacon Arts Centre.

535 Finance Services Update 535

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing the annual debt recovery performance update and updates on the following matters being progressed by the Revenues & Benefits Service (1) Housing Benefits & Pension Credit, (2) Housing Benefits Performance, (3) Council Tax on-line forms, (4) changes to Council tax Reduction Regulations, (5) Annual Delivering Differently updates, (6) Annual Insurance Fund report, and (7) replacement of the Finance Management System.

Decided:

- (1) that (a) the updates provided in the report be noted, and (b) the recognition by the DWP of Inverclyde Council's consistently high Housing Benefit performance be welcomed;
- (2) that it be agreed to add the review of Schools Catering as set out in appendix 2 to the report to the Delivering Differently Programme;
- (3) that it be noted that as part of the December Finance Strategy, the sustainability of the two current £100,000 internal insurance premium holidays will be reviewed; and
- (4) that it be noted that the triennial actuarial review of the Council's Insurance Fund will be progressed early in 2025 and the results reported to Committee thereafter.

536 Corporate Policy & Performance Update: September-November 2024 536

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisations Development, Policy & Communications providing an update on Corporate Policy and Performance matters relating to (1) Programme for Government 2024/25, (2) a review of the Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework, and (3) COSLA Excellence Awards 2024.

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The Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications advised the Committee of a typographical error in the report and, accordingly, at paragraph 3.3 the reference to '4 September 2023', should read '4 September 2024'.

Decided: that the latest update in relation to Corporate Policy and Performance be noted.

537 Policy & Resources Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report 537

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.

538 Treasury Management – Mid-Year Report 2024/25 538

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) advising the Committee of the operation of the treasury function and its activities for the first six months of 2024/25 as required under the terms of Treasury Management Practice 6 ("TMP6") on "Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements", and (2) requesting that the report be remitted to the Full Council for approval.

Decided:

- (1) that (a) the contents of the Mid-Year Report on Treasury Management for 2024/25 be noted, and (b) it be noted that a refreshed Loan Charge funding model will be presented to the 5 December 2024 meeting of the Full Council; and
- (2) that it be agreed to remit the report to the Full Council for approval.

539 Governance of External Organisations – Annual Update and Review 539

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing the annual update in respect of the governance of external organisations under the remit of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Councillors Armstrong, Curley, Law and Robertson declared connections in this item of business. Councillor Armstrong declared a connection as a Member of the Executive Committee of Inverclyde Voluntary Council of Social Services, Councillor Curley declared a connection as a Director of Inchgreen Marine Park and as a Member of the Board of Riverside Inverclyde, Councillor Law declared a connection as a Member of the Board of the Inverclyde Community Development Trust 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 connections and of the items of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting of their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the performance for the period November 2023 to October 2024 against the governance oversight process approved by the Policy & Resources Committee in November 2023 be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that this area is part of the 2024/25 Internal Audit Action Plan;
- (3) that the move to a tiered approach and the lighter touch arrangements set out in appendix 4 to the report be approved;
- (4) that approval be given to the principle of mandating the payment of the Real Living Wage by the organisations in appendix 3 to the report pending a report back from officers on the financial and other implications; and

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(5) that it be noted that the report on Councillor representation on the boards of organisations which tender for Council work will be presented to the Full Council by September 2025.

540 Inverclyde Council Plan Annual Performance Report 2023/24 540

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications seeking approval for the publication of the Inverclyde Council Annual Performance Report 2023/24.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in the delivery of the Council Plan during 2023/24 be noted; and
- (2) that the publication of the Corporate Plan Annual Performance Report 2023/24 be approved.

541 Workforce Information and Activity Report 2023/24 541

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications presenting the Workforce Information and Activity Report 2023/24.

Decided: that the contents of the Workforce Information and Activity Report 2023/24 be noted.

542 Annual Update on the use of surveillance powers – The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA) 542

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 be noted;
- (2) that the updated Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 policy, as detailed in appendix 2 to the report, be approved; and
- (3) that it be noted that a further annual update, including a review of the Regulation of Investigatory powers (Scotland) Act 2000 policy, will be provided in a year's time.

543 2025/26 Revenue Budget Update 543

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the 2025/26 Budget, including latest timelines, progress with savings workstreams delivery and emerging pressures, and (2) seeking decisions in relation to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the addition of a £700,000 pressures allowance to the 2025/26 Budget, based on the latest monitoring reports, be approved;
- (2) that (a) the updated projections and phasing relating to the savings workstreams as detailed in appendix 1 to the report be noted, and (b) the addition of a teachers workstream and schools catering workstream to the overall workstream programme, plus the utilisation of £139,000 of the contingency to fund two projected workstream shortfalls, be agreed;
- (3) that it be noted that the Corporate Management Team and Members Budget Working Group have undertaken a review of earmarked reserves and this will be reported to the Elected Members as part of future Budget update reports;

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- (4) that it be noted that a potentially significant new 2025/26 budget pressure may arise from the potential reduction in protection from the Floor and that, at this time, it is being assumed that the increase in employers' national insurance announced by the Chancellor on 30 October 2024 will be fully funded via Barnet Consequentials and will be passported to Local Government by the Scottish Government;
- (5) that it be noted that the intended special meeting of the Inverclyde Council planned for 19 December 2024 will no longer take place due to the limited time for officers to analyse the detail of the Council's grant settlement whilst allowing sufficient time for elected members to arrive at the potentially important decisions required;
- (6) that it be noted that an All-Member briefing will take place week commencing 16 December 2024 covering the settlement and officers' initial assessment of implications;
- (7) that that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to release sufficient cleaning employees to deliver the saving required as part of the closure of Hector McNeil House in early 2025 on the basis that the releases meet the Council's value for money criteria; and
- (8) that the limited Budget consultation approach planned as set out in appendix 2 to the report be noted.

544 Anti-Poverty Fund – Fuel Poverty Payments Proposal 544

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for a proposal to create a Fuel Poverty Fund with a specific proposal for the use of this fund for Winter 2024.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals developed by officers regarding Fuel Poverty payments to cover this winter and next, funded from the unallocated balance in the Anti-Poverty Fund, be approved; and
- (2) that (a) the specific proposal relating to the winter of 2024 be approved, and (b) it be noted that officers will bring back a proposal for the 2025/26 winter later in 2025.

545 Marmot Place Scotland 545

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn.

546 SOLACE Improving Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2023/24 (September Refresh) 546

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing details of Inverclyde Council's LGBF performance 2023/24 for those measures published as at 30 September 2024.

Decided: that the publication of Local Government Benchmarking Framework data for 37 measures and Inverclyde Council's overall strong performance be noted.

547 NRS Mid-2023 Population Estimates, Scotland 547

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing an overview of the latest mid-2023 population estimates, published by the National Records of Scotland on 8 October 2024.

Decided: that the national publication of the National Records of Scotland mid-2023 population estimates, and the latest population data for Inverclyde, be noted.

548 Fair Work First and the Real Living Wage 548

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications and Director Environment & Regeneration (1) providing an update on the impact of Fair work First grant conditionality implemented by the Scottish Government, (2) making proposals for the increase in Modern Apprentice pay to the real Living Wage rate from 1 April 2025, and early implementation of the increased rate for Grade 1 employees.

Decided:

- (1) that an increase in Modern Apprentice pay to the real Living Wage from 1 April 2025 be agreed;
- (2) that it be noted that the number of Modern Apprentices employed beyond the current cohort will require to be reviewed in line with the budget requirements;
- (3) that it be noted that where Inverclyde Council administers funding on behalf of the Scottish Government and other national organisations the Fair Work First criteria may also apply; and
- (4) that it be agreed that the 2024 annual increase in the real Living Wage will be implemented early, from January 2025.

549 Interim Digital and Customer Services Strategy 549

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services seeking agreement to adopt a phased approach to creating a new combined Digital and Customer Services Strategy.

Decided:

- (1) that the advice from the CMT to employ a phased approach to creating a Digital and Customer Service Strategy in light of the recently issued Accounts Commission report and the actions identified by the Council's external auditors be noted;
- (2) that (a) Phase 1 of the strategy and action plan be approved, and (b) it be noted that updates on progress will form part of the bi-meeting digital updates to Committee; and
- (3) that it be noted that funding for relevant costs associated with the development of an approach to transformation will be met from the digital earmarked reserve.

550 Update on the Digital Modernisation Programme and Delivery of the ICT and Digital Strategies 550

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 and progress against the Digital and ICT Strategies 2021-2024

Decided:

- (1) that the update on the work of the Digital Modernisation Programme, and the projects within it, be noted; and
- (2) that the update on the work of the Council's ICT Service be noted.

551 Internal Audit – Remit from Audit Committee 551

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 the reporting line for Internal Audit.

Decided: that the remit from the Audit Committee be noted.

552 OD, Policy and Communications Policy Updates 552

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 19 NOVEMBER 2024

There was submitted a report from the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications seeking approval for the following updated policies, (1) First Aid at Work Policy, and (2) Workforce Transport Policy.

Decided: that the policies be approved.

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)
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Appendix relative to agenda item 8 providing additional information on governance oversight of external organisations	6
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King George VI Community Hub Update – Remit from Education & Communities Committee	6 & 9
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553	Appendix relative to agenda item 8 providing additional information on governance oversight of external organisations	553
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There was submitted a private appendix providing additional information on governance oversight of external organisations under the remit of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Decided: that the appendix be noted.

554	King George VI Community Hub Update – Remit from Education & Communities Committee	554
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There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting consideration of a remit from the Education & Communities Committee relative to the King George VI Community Hub.

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

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 21 NOVEMBER 2024

Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 21 November 2024 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources
Hugh Scott	Service Manager Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Roisin Dillon	Trading Standards and Enforcement Team Leader
Anne Sinclair	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer

In attendance also:

Gordon McCreadie	Chief Superintendent, Local Police Commander, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
David Doherty	Chief Inspector, Area Commander, Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
Kevin Murphy	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 Brennan and Reynolds attending remotely.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed the representatives from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and Councillor Ian Hellyer to the meeting. Councillor Wilson congratulated Councillor Hellyer on his recent election as Councillor for Ward 5 (Inverclyde West).

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

555

Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

555

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Crowther, with Councillor Curley substituting, and Councillor McGuire, with Councillor Hellyer substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 21 NOVEMBER 2024

556 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report**556**

Prior to discussion of this item, Area Commander Murphy conveyed his thanks and appreciation to Elected Members for attending the recent Fire Skills course held for secondary school pupils in Inverclyde. The course aimed to provide pupils with essential life skills including team building, problem solving, and health and safety awareness. He congratulated the pupils who attended on their achievements. Area Commander Murphy also expressed his gratitude to Inverclyde Council for funding the course and to Police Scotland officers who supported the young people.

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024.

During the course of discussion on this item reference was made to the activity conducted locally by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service in the period running up to and on Bonfire Night. It was noted that between the 1-10 November, the service attended ten bonfires in the area. It was reported that three of the fires were deemed to require firefighting action with the remainder risk assessed and deemed to have had sufficient supervision and located in a safe location. In addition, the service attended six refuse fires in the same period, with four of them occurring on Bonfire Night. Group Commander Anderson advised that a more detailed report of the events will be available at the next Scrutiny Panel. Thereafter Group Commander Anderson answered a number of questions from Members. The Convener expressed his thanks to Scottish Fire & Rescue Service for the work undertaken on the Fire Skills course and to Hugh Scott, Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport, and his team for their assistance.

Decided: that the information contained in the report be noted

557 Police Scotland Performance Report**557**

Prior to reporting on this item, Chief Superintendent McCreadie informed the Scrutiny Panel that he is taking up a new role in Police Scotland. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Panel and Inverclyde Council officers on his last meeting. The Chief Superintendent also extended his thanks and appreciation to Police Scotland officers.

In reference to Bonfire Night, Chief Superintendent McCreadie conveyed his thanks to Inverclyde Council and colleagues at Scottish Fire & Rescue Service acknowledging positive working relationships leading up to and on Bonfire Night.

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 31 August 2024. During the course of discussion on this item Chief Superintendent McCreadie reported that recorded domestic abuse incidents in Inverclyde increased by 19.5% from last year's figures and advised that caution should be exercised in comparing the numbers of domestic abuse which involved crimes being recorded, and the detection rate, due to the change in how crimes are recorded. Chief Superintendent McCreadie confirmed in response to concerns raised that tackling domestic abuse remains a top priority for Police Scotland. He provided assurance that Police Scotland are committed to providing a professional, sensitive and consistent response to victims. It was noted that partnership working continues to play a critical role in protecting victims, offering tailored support and ensuring accountability among all stakeholders.

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

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 21 NOVEMBER 2024

558 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report**558**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & 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) The Scottish Police Authority Board, (b) Emergency Services Unite with NHS to enhance Mental Health Support, (c) HMICS – Police Response to Missing Persons, (d) Consultation on HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2025-28, (e) Visit to SFRS Operations Control Room, (f) 200 Years of SFRS Celebration, (g) Fireworks Safety Campaign launched and (h) Inverclyde Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel letter to Police Scotland; and

(2) that the proposed response to the HMICS consultation on their future scrutiny plan be approved.

559 Mr Gordon McCready**559**

The Convener conveyed his thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Scrutiny Panel to Chief Superintendent McCreadie who will be taking up a new post within Police Scotland. The Convener wished Mr McCreadie well for the future.