

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 5 DECEMBER 2024

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 5 December 2024 at 4pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Hellyer, Jackson, Law, 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
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Angela Edmiston	Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Strategic Finance)
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
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 Crowther, Hellyer, Law, McCabe and Reynolds attending remotely.

565 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

565

No apologies for absence were intimated.

Councillor Brooks declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 (Proposed transfer of pensions of employees by River Clyde Homes and the 'Fire and Rehire' processes being used – Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson).

Certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:
Agenda Item 13 (Proposed transfer of pensions of employees by River Clyde Homes and the 'Fire and Rehire' processes being used – Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson) – Provost McKenzie and Councillor Curley.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Provost welcomed Councillor Ian Hellyer to the meeting as newly elected Councillor for Ward 5 (Inverclyde West) following the recent by-election and congratulated Councillor Brooks on becoming Chair of the Scottish Region of The National Association of Councillors. The Provost also conveyed his condolences to Councillor Crowther on the recent loss of his partner.

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

566 Appointment Panel (Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness - 30 May 2024

566

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	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
567	Appointment Panel (Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness) - 20 June 2024	567
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
568	Inverclyde Council – 26 September 2024	568
	Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.	
569	Local Review Body – 2 October 2024	569
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
570	General Purposes Board - 9 October 2024	570
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
571	Audit Committee – 22 October 2024	571
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.	
572	Inverclyde Council – 24 October 2024	572
	Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.	
573	Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel - 29 October 2024	573
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Brennan.	
574	Environment & Regeneration Committee - 31 October 2024	574
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	
575	Education & Communities Committee - 5 November 2024	575
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
576	Planning Board – 6 November 2024	576
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
577	Local Review Body – 6 November 2024	577
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
578	General Purposes Board – 13 November 2024	578
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	

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579	Policy & Resources Committee – 19 November 2024	579
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McGuire.	
580	Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel - 21 November 2024	580
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.	
581	General Purposes Board - 28 November 2024	581
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
582	Finance Strategy 2024/34 – 6 Monthly Update	582
	There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer presenting the updated Financial Strategy for review and approval.	
	Decided:	
	(1) that (a) the latest update to the Council's Financial Strategy, including the updated funding models in the appendices, be approved, and (b) the continued significant financial challenges for both the UK and Scottish Governments be noted;	
	(2) that the remaining mid-range estimated 2025/28 funding gap of £14.9million after assuming a 7% increase in Council Tax in 2025/26, as detailed at table 4a of the Financial Strategy, be noted;	
	(3) that it be agreed to end one of the £100,000 Insurance Fund premium holidays from 1 April 2025 due to the reduced Insurance Fund balance; and	
	(4) that the following one-off actions be agreed in relation to Funding Models:	
	(a) transfer £300,000 to the City Deal Funding Model from the unallocated reserves;	
	(b) transfer £300,000 to the Internal Resources Interest model from the unallocated reserves; and	
	(c) reduce the previously approved £1million transfer in 2024/25 between the Internal Resources Interest and Loans Charges Funding Model by £200,000.	
583	Internal Audit Shared Service	583
	There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking agreement to expand the number of shared posts within the existing Internal Audit shared service	
	Decided:	
	(1) that (a) it be agreed to expand the number of shared Internal Audit posts, namely (i) vacant post of Senior Fraud Investigation Officer within Inverclyde and (ii) vacant post of qualified Internal Auditor within West Dunbartonshire Council, and (b) it be noted that this is subject to the proposal being agreed by West Dunbartonshire Council later this month;	
	(2) that it be noted that discussions are ongoing at officer level with a third Council regarding a potential larger Internal Audit shared service; and	
	(3) that it be agreed that future reports concerning the Internal Audit Shared Service be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee.	
584	2023/24 Annual Accounts	584
	There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer presenting the finalised 2023/24 Annual Accounts for noting, this following consideration of the Annual Accounts,	

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Draft Annual Audit Report and Best Value Thematic Report at the Inverclyde Council meeting on 24 October 2024.

Decided:

- (1) that the final 2023/24 Annual Accounts be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that following this meeting the Annual Accounts will be signed by the Council Leader, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer.

585 Request for a Special Meeting of Inverclyde Council

585

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking agreement for a Special Meeting of the Council to be held on 23 January 2025 at 4pm to consider a number of matters relating to the 2025/26 Budget.

Decided: that it be agreed that a Special Meeting of the Council will be held on 23 January 2025 at 4pm to receive an update on the 2025/26 grant settlement and take a number of decisions relating to the 2025/26 Budget.

Prior to consideration of the following item the Provost thanked Councillor McCabe for his dedication and service to Inverclyde Council as Leader of the Council for 17 years and paid tribute to his integrity and commitment.

586 Appointment of Council Leader and Political Balance

586

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) requesting that the Council appoint a new Leader following the resignation of Councillor McCabe as Leader of the Council, (2) advising of the necessary amendments to ensure political balance on Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies, where appropriate, following (i) the election of Councillor Ian Hellyer as an Elected member of the Council representing Ward 5 (Inverclyde West) following a by-election on 7 November 2024, (ii) the resignation of Councillor McCabe as Leader of the Council, and (iii) the administrative suspension of Councillor McCabe from the Labour Party and that Councillor McCabe now sits on the Council as an independent member, and (3) advising of changes to such memberships which are not related to those events and have been requested by Members.

The Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services provided a verbal update to the report and advised that further to the proposal that Councillor Jackson replace Councillor Moran as a member of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board, that Councillor Hellyer be named as his proxy and that Councillor Clocherty be named as Councillor Brennan's proxy, noting that Councillor Brennan is a current member of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board.

Decided:

- (1) that Councillor Robert Moran be appointed as Leader of the Council;
- (2) that following the resignation of Councillor Curley from the Board of River Clyde Homes and there being no nominations received to be the second Councillor member of the Board, Members be given a two-week reflection period to consider nominations, after which, if there remain no nominations, the matter will be discussed with River Clyde Homes;
- (3) that following the resignation of Councillor Quinn from the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, Provost McKenzie be appointed as replacement;
- (4) that the new political balance applying to Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies, as detailed in the appendices to the report, be noted;
- (5) that the membership of Inverclyde Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Boards, together with Convenors and Vice-Convenors, be agreed as follows:

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Policy & Resources Committee

(a) Councillor Brennan to replace Councillor Nelson, (b) Councillor Brooks to replace Councillor Wilson, (c) Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as an independent Member, (d) Councillor McGuire to replace Councillor McCabe as Convener and (e) Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McGuire as Vice-Convener.

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

Convener: Councillor McGuire

Vice-Convener: Councillor Moran

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Councillor Nelson to fill vacancy.

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| 1. Councillor Cassidy | 7. Councillor Robertson |
| 2. Councillor Clocherty | 8. Councillor Brooks |
| 3. Councillor Jackson | 9. Councillor Nelson |
| 4. Councillor McCormick | 10. Provost McKenzie |
| 5. Councillor Crowther | 11. Councillor Quinn |
| 6. Councillor Curley | |

Convener: Councillor McCormick

Vice-Conveners: Councillor Cassidy (Environment)

Councillor Clocherty (Regeneration)

Education & Communities Committee

Councillor Hellyer to replace Councillor Moran.

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

Convener: Councillor Clocherty

Vice-Conveners: Councillor Brennan (Education)

Councillor McGuire (Communities)

Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

(a) Councillor Hellyer and Councillor Law to fill vacancies, and (b) Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as an independent member.

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| 1. Councillor Brennan | 7. Councillor Robertson |
| 2. Councillor Cassidy | 8. Councillor Brooks |
| 3. Councillor Hellyer | 9. Councillor Law |
| 4. Councillor Jackson | 10. Councillor McCabe |
| 5. Councillor Armstrong | 11. Provost McKenzie |
| 6. Councillor Daisley | |

Convener: Councillor Brennan

Vice-Convener: Councillor Jackson

Audit Committee

Councillor Hellyer to replace Councillor McCabe.

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

General Purposes Board

(a) Councillor Hellyer to replace Councillor Moran, (b) Councillor McCabe to fill the vacancy as an independent member, (c) Councillor Nelson to replace Councillor Wilson, and (d) Councillor Jackson to replace Councillor Moran as Convener.

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| 1. Councillor Brennan | 7. Councillor Reynolds |
| 2. Councillor Cassidy | 8. Councillor Nelson |
| 3. Councillor Hellyer | 9. Councillor McCabe |
| 4. Councillor Jackson | 10. Provost McKenzie |
| 5. Councillor Armstrong | 11. Councillor Quinn |
| 6. Councillor Curley | |
- Chair: Councillor Jackson
Vice Chair: Councillor Curley

Planning Board

No change to membership but Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as an independent member.

Human Resources Appeals Board

No change to membership.

Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee

(a) Councillor Moran to replace Councillor Law, (b) Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as an independent member, (c) Councillor Brooks to replace Councillor Wilson, (d) Councillor McGuire to replace Councillor McCabe as Convener, and (e) Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McGuire as Vice-Convener.

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| 1. Councillor Moran | 4. Councillor Brooks |
| 2. Councillor McGuire | 5. Councillor McCabe |
| 3. Councillor Robertson | 6. Councillor McVey |
- Convener: Councillor McCabe
Vice-Convener: Councillor McGuire

Grants Sub-Committee

No change to membership.

Local Review Body

No change to membership but Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as an independent member.

Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel

(a) Councillor Hellyer to replace Councillor Moran, and (b) Councillor Cassidy to replace Councillor McGuire

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| 1. Councillor Brennan | 7. Councillor Reynolds |
| 2. Councillor Cassidy | 8. Councillor Wilson |

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| 3. Councillor Clocherty | 9. Councillor Law |
| 4. Councillor Hellyer | 10. Provost McKenzie |
| 5. Councillor Crowther | 11. Councillor Quinn |
| 6. Councillor Daisley | |
| Chair: Councillor Wilson | |
| Vice-Chair: Provost McKenzie | |

Petitions Committee

Councillor Hellyer to replace Councillor McCabe.

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| 1. Councillor Cassidy | 4. Councillor Daisley |
| 2. Councillor Hellyer | 5. Councillor Brooks |
| 3. Councillor Curley | 6. Provost McKenzie |
| Convener: Councillor Curley | |
| Vice-Convener: Provost McKenzie | |

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

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities – Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McCabe

Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal Cabinet (Joint Committee) – Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McCabe

Inchgreen Marine Park Ltd – Councillor Clocherty to replace Councillor McCabe

Inverclyde Alliance Board – Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McCabe

Inverclyde Integration Joint Board – Councillor Jackson to replace Councillor Moran, Councillor Hellyer to be proxy for Councillor Jackson, and Councillor Clocherty to be proxy for Councillor Brennan, who is an existing member

Scotland Excel Joint Committee – Councillor Cassidy to replace Councillor McCabe as substitute member

Scottish Joint Council for Local Government Employees – Councillor Clocherty to replace Councillor McCabe

Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers – Councillor Clocherty to replace Councillor McCabe.

587 Inverclyde Council Byelaws for the Regulation of the Cleaning of Common Property 587

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services providing an update on the outcome of the statutory consultation in connection with the proposed resolution to revoke the Inverclyde Byelaws for the Regulation of the Cleaning of Common Property and requesting that the Council now agrees to pass the resolution to revoke the Byelaws.

Decided:

- (1) that the outcome of the statutory consultation in connection with the proposed resolution to revoke the Byelaws be noted; and
- (2) that Inverclyde Council resolves to revoke the Inverclyde Council Byelaws for the Regulation of the Cleaning of Common Property.

588 Treasury Management – Mid-Year Report 2024/25 – Remit from the Policy & Resources Committee 588

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 19 November 2024 relative to the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2024/25.

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Decided: that the Mid-Year Report for 2024/25, as required under the terms of the Treasury Management Practice 6 (TMP6) on 'Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements', be approved.

589 Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 – Notice of Motion by Councillor Brooks

589

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on a Notice of Motion by Councillor Brooks, countersigned by Councillor Wilson, in the following terms:

"Inverclyde Council is the proud holder of the gold-level award for the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme - commonly referred to as the Armed Forces Covenant – and the proud home of 2,289 veterans.

In this year's King's Speech, on the 17th of July 2024, the Prime Minister set out measures to repeal and replace the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023. This Act gave members of the British Armed Forces who served in Northern Ireland the same protection from prosecution as that given to those convicted of acts of terror and those who, until the passing of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, had evaded justice.

In interviews given by the Prime Minister prior to this year's General Election, he made it clear that he does not believe British service personnel should have immunity from prosecution, but convicted paramilitaries and those evading justice should continue to enjoy this protection as the cost of a lasting peace.

The repeal of the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 is an act of betrayal to British Armed Forces veterans who saw active service during Operation Banner. It is an affront to the British military community, serving and veterans.

As a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant, this Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister asking him to reconsider his commitment to repealing 2023 Act or, if he is so determined, to replace it with an Act that gives British Armed Forces veterans at least the same degree of protection from prosecution related to The Troubles as those enjoyed by those already pardoned as part of the Peace Process."

Following discussion, as an amendment Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Curley, moved that this Council agrees not to take this position on this issue and requests that Members make their views known to the Prime Minister on an individual basis should they decide to do so.

Following a roll call vote, 3 Members, Councillors Brooks, Nelson and Wilson, voted for the motion, and 17 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Hellyer, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Reynolds and Robertson voted for the amendment which was declared carried. Councillors Law and Quinn abstained from voting.

Decided: that this Council agrees not to take the position as set out in Councillor Brook's motion on this issue and requests that Members make their views known to the Prime Minister on an individual basis should they decide to do so.

590 Proposed transfer of pensions of employees by River Clyde Homes and the 'Fire and Rehire' processes being used – Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson

590

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on a Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson, countersigned by Councillor Cassidy, in the following terms:

"It is proposed that: This Council notes that:

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- River Clyde Homes (RCH) workers who remain on the final salary Strathclyde Pension Fund following the stock transfer in 2007, have been told that moves are underway to move them on to less favourable Scottish Housing Association Pension Scheme (SHAPS);
- these workers, through their trade union, have rejected RCH's revised offer;
- RCH have taken the decision to put workers on 60 days' notice (which will take effect on Tuesday the 14th January 2025) that if they do not accept the move, their employment may be terminated, and they will be rehired on revised terms and conditions. This is the practice known as fire and rehire; and
- RCH has cited challenges around rent rises and other factors (which have not been explained) as the reason RCH management can no longer sustain their employer contributions.

This Council agrees to:

- strongly condemn any partner or anchor organisation that would use fire and rehire to undermine pay and conditions;
- support the affected staff in their struggle to maintain their employment terms & conditions together with their current Pension Scheme; and
- instructs the Chief Executive Officer to write to RCH to (i) ask that they halt the 60-day notice period immediately and the threat to end the employment of workers and (ii) call on RCH to get back around the table with trade union officers to reach a settlement that will not adversely affect the financial well-being of its workers.”

Councillor Brooks declared an interest in this item as a Board Member of River Clyde Homes and left the meeting for the consideration of this item.

Provost McKenzie declared a connection as a close personal acquaintance is employed by River Clyde Homes but is not in the pension fund, and Councillor Curley declared a connection as a former Board Member of River Clyde Homes. Both Councillors 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 notice of motion by Councillor Jackson as set out above be agreed;
- (2) that it be agreed that the Chief Executive write to River Clyde Homes to ask (a) that they halt the 60-day notice period immediately and the threat to end the employment of workers, and (b) return to the table with Trade Union officers to reach a settlement that will not adversely affect the financial well-being of its workers.

Councillor Brooks returned to the meeting at this juncture.

591 Inverclyde Group for Gaza – Notice of Motion by Councillor Armstrong

591

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

“It is proposed that this Council notes the efforts of the local Group for Gaza in raising funds to alleviate the suffering endured by the people of Gaza. In all but the most inclement weather the Inverclyde Group for Gaza, with support from elected members of different parties and none, has met weekly since October 2023 for a Saturday vigil and fundraiser. To date the Group for Gaza has sent £8,000 to Medical Aid for Palestine including the proceeds from two Gigs for Gaza held in Inverclyde. This Council commends the efforts and dedication of the Group for Gaza.”

Decided: that the notice of motion by Councillor Armstrong as set out above be agreed.

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on a Notice of Motion by Councillor Cassidy, countersigned by Councillor Brennan, in the following terms:

“This Council Notes:

- That the Scottish Government owned rail operator ScotRail, announced on 31st October 2024 plans to reduce ticket office hours at 101 (70%) of its 143 staffed stations. This means weekly ticket office hours across the ScotRail network would reduce by around 2800 hours a week.
- ScotRail has commenced a 12-week internal staff consultation on the proposals which ends in February 2025.
- Wemyss Bay Station, the 2023 winner of Best UK Station is one of the stations affected by this announcement which will see its hours cut by 61% to 45 hours a week with a loss of 70 hours per week.
- Greenock Central station will see its current hours cut by 62% to 32 hours a week with a loss of 55 hours per week; Gourock station will see its current hours cut by 43% to 70 hours a week with a loss of 53 hours per week; Port Glasgow station will see its current hours cut by 41% to 72 hours with a loss of 50 hours per week and Greenock West station will see its current hours cut by 38% to 77 hours with a loss of 47 hours per week.
- According to Transport for All disabled people are less likely to travel by rail than non-disabled people and that around two-thirds of ScotRail stations are un-staffed.
- There is an ongoing campaign by the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) to Save ScotRail Ticket Offices.
- These proposals would close ticket offices for significant portions of the day, amounting to a reduction of one-third of overall hours at affected stations, totalling a loss of around 2,900 hours per week.
- That these controversial proposals were first introduced in early 2022 by former operator Abellio following a 21-day public consultation run by passenger watchdog Transport Focus on proposals for cuts to ticket office hours.
- These proposals in 2022 faced overwhelming public opposition with 98% of respondents objecting to the plans to reduce ticket office hours.
- That at the time, the process that the passenger watchdog had to follow when reviewing the consultation responses, meant that it could only object to proposals under a ‘narrow’ criteria relating solely to ticket sales.
- That since then ScotRail is now owned by the Scottish Government, and guidelines for ticket office closures have changed. Under the new process, Transport Focus, the passenger watchdog, must assess any closure proposals according to accessibility, safety and service quality criteria.
- That during the 2022 Public Consultation, a poll by Disability Equality Scotland of its members found that 95% objected to the proposals.
- That the RMT has highlighted that ScotRail’s plans were initially consulted on under outdated procedures, rendering them illegitimate by today’s standards.
- The Scottish Government 2022 report into women's and girls' views and experiences of personal safety when using public transport found that –women and girls feel safer when there are staffed ticket offices open during their journeys.
- Ticket office staffing is the only regulated staffing at stations, meaning cuts could lead to broader unregulated staffing reductions without future public consultation.

This Council believes:

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- Staffed ticket offices are vital for making rail accessible for all, especially disabled and older people.
- These cuts will seriously impact passenger safety, accessibility and security, thus will worsen passenger service and have a detrimental impact on passenger experience of the ScotRail network.
- These cuts ignore the needs of the traveling public and put essential services at risk and will erode the quality of services in Inverclyde and around Scotland.
- That the Scottish Government, as ScotRail's owner and the body who authorised ScotRail to proceed with these cuts, must urgently intervene and instruct it to scrap the plans to cut ticket offices hours and maintain the services that passengers deserve.
- That ScotRail reliance on outdated processes renders these proposals illegitimate and warrants their immediate withdrawal.
- That protecting staffed ticket offices is crucial to supporting local communities, tourism and Inverclyde's economy.

This Council agrees to:

- Voice support for RMT campaign to protect the vital services offered by staffed ticket offices and commit to advocating for the vital role they play in Inverclyde alongside Trades Unions, campaign groups and disabled orgs.
- Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Scottish Government calling on them to intervene and reverse this decision and to seek a commitment to fully staffed ticket offices to ensure safe, secure, and accessible railways for all.
- Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to ScotRail Managing Director to raise the Council's concerns and call on ScotRail to reverse this decision and publish the relevant Equality Impact Assessment. ScotRail will also be requested to provide a detailed impact assessment on the accessibility, safety, and economic consequences of these changes, with specific focus on Inverclyde.
- Voice its opposition to ticket office closures and to advocate for the vital role that Inverclyde ticket offices play in supporting the community, tourism and Inverclyde's economy."

Decided: this Motion was withdrawn with the agreement of Councillor Cassidy and Councillor Brennan, in order to give Members time to consider the terms of the Motion, and will be considered at the Special meeting of the Inverclyde Council on 23 January 2024 as arranged earlier in the meeting.

593 Trust Funds Annual Accounts 2023-24

593

There was submitted a report by the Honorary Treasurer requesting the Council as sole trustee to adopt the examined Annual Accounts of the Birkmyre Trust and the Watt Institution Trust Fund for 2023-24.

Decided: that the Council as sole trustee -

- (1) approve the Annual Accounts of the Birkmyre Trust and the Watt Institution Trust Fund for the year ended 31 March 2024 as detailed in the appendices to the report; and
- (2) remit officers to provide a report to a future meeting on Birkmyre Park considering the best use of the usable reserves.

Private Appendices to Minutes

594 Appointment Panel (Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness 30 May 2024

594

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

595 Appointment Panel (Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness) - 20 June 2024 595

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

596 General Purposes Board – 9 October 2024 596

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

597 Audit Committee – 22 October 2024 597

Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson

598 Environment & Regeneration Committee – 31 October 2024 598

Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.

599 Education & Communities Committee – 5 November 2024 599

Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.

600 General Purposes Board – 13 November 2024 600

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

601 Policy & Resources Committee – 19 November 2024 601

Approved on the motion of Councillor McGuire.