

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 13 MARCH 2025

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 13 March 2025 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Jackson, Law (for Quinn) and McCormick.

Chair: Councillor McCormick presided.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Neale McIlvanney	Head of Service - Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Julie Ann Wilson	Principal Accountant
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' and Committee Services Team Leader
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance and Communications Manager

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

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

118 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

118

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Quinn, with Councillor Law substituting, and Councillor Nelson.

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

Agenda Item 9 (Local Housing Strategy Update) – Councillor Brooks.

Agenda Item 11 (Waterfront Leisure Complex – Chiller Replacement) – Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brooks and Clocherty.

119 2024/25 Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget

119

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director Environment & Regeneration advising the Committee of the Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget 2024/25 projected position.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the Committee Revenue Budget is currently projected to overspend in 2024/25 by £220,000;
- (2) that it be noted that £200,000 of the projected overspend has been addressed via additional funding from 2025/26, as agreed by the 23 January 2025 Council; and
- (3) that (a) the on-going review of Agency staff being progressed by the Director be noted, and (b) it be noted that where appropriate an update will be provided to future meetings of the Committee.

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| 120 | <p>Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme 2024/28 – Progress</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Head of Physical Assets advised the Committee of a typographical error in the report and accordingly the reference to “3.31” in paragraph 3.30 should read “3.29”.</p> <p>Councillor Brooks joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(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; and</p> <p>(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.</p> | 120 |
| 121 | <p>Environment and Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the progress made in the delivery of the Environment & Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted; and</p> <p>(2) that it be noted that a refreshed Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan, for reporting year 2025/26, will be presented to the next meeting.</p> | 121 |
| 122 | <p>Draft Economic Growth Plan</p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Service – Regeneration, Planning and Public Protection providing the Committee with sight of a draft of the emerging Economic Growth Plan for Inverclyde Council.</p> <p>Decided: that (a) the content of the Draft Economic Growth Plan be noted, and (b) further engagement to finalising a draft for referral to a future committee be agreed.</p> | 122 |
| 123 | <p>Local Development Plan: Evidence Report and Scoping Report</p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Service – Regeneration, Planning and Public Protection seeking approval for the Local Development Plan ‘Evidence Report’ and ‘Scoping Report’, in order that both documents can be submitted to Scottish Government for Gate Check review.</p> <p>Decided: that approval be given to the draft Local Development Plan ‘Evidence Report’ and the Local Development Plan ‘Scoping Report’ for submission to Government Gatecheck, subject to final amendments required for editorial purposes.</p> | 123 |
| 124 | <p>Roads – Proposed RAMP/Capital Programme for 2025/26</p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration and Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for a proposed programme of projects to be undertaken in 2025/26 using RAMP/Capital Funding and funding for Active Travel infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Decided:</p> | 124 |

- (1) that the list detailed in appendix 1 to the report for the 2025/26 RAMP/Capital and Active Travel related projects be approved; and
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Physical Assets to achieve full spend of the RAMP/Capital budget and Active Travel allocation through the substitution of projects from a reserve list when necessary.

125 National Strategy for 20mph - Update

125

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets informing the Committee of the ongoing engagement with Transport Scotland on the commitment from the Scottish Government to implement the National Strategy for 20mph speed limits in all appropriate roads in built up areas by 2025.

The Committee adjourned at 3:47pm and reconvened at 3:56pm.

Following discussion Councillor Brooks moved that recommendation (2) as detailed in the report be amended to read: “(2) note and oppose in principle 20mph speed limits and the roads identified during the March 2023 assessment (and subsequent amendments) which indicate that 1,054 roads are suitable for a speed limit reduction based on the Road Assessment Guidance issued by Transport Scotland.”

As an amendment Councillor Curley moved the recommendations contained in the report. Following a roll call vote, 3 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brooks and Law voted in favour of the motion and 7 Members, Councillors Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Jackson and McCormick voted in favour of the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the position and the limited funding received from Transport Scotland in 2024/25 to support an initial assessment and further detailed design of the associated Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders signs, lines and other measures, which is currently on-going through external consultations and planned to be completed by the end of March 2025, be noted;
- (2) that the principles of 20mph speed limits and the roads identified during the March 2023 assessment (and subsequent amendments) which indicate that 1,054 roads are suitable for a speed limit reduction based on the Road Assessment Guidance issued by Transport Scotland be noted and agreed;
- (3) that Transport Scotland’s proposed route to implementation by promotion of a number of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders, followed by consultation to assess the success of the schemes to identify any changes and with final implementation through formal consultation and promotion of permanent Speed Limit Orders be noted;
- (4) that (a) the estimated cost of implementation, as outlined in paragraph 3.13 of the report, be noted, and (b) it be noted that officers will continue dialogue with Transport Scotland regarding the position on funding for implementation and report to a future meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee;
- (5) that the Scottish Government indicated timescales for implementation and the challenges associated with meeting those linked to the current inability of Transport Scotland to confirm funding support for implementation and any timing of announcement of funding support from Transport Scotland, including the finite officer resource within the Inverclyde Services that would be required to support the implementation, be noted; and
- (6) that the Transport Scotland position and the limitations on what would be covered by funding for implementation, as outlined in paragraph 3.12 of the report, and the risks passed to the Council associated with any further soft measures and (where deemed necessary) any physical speed management measures for roads not reaching a desired level of speed compliance with the likely scenario being that these roads would require to be reverted to the original speed limit in the absence of available funding to support further speed management measures, be noted.

126 Local Housing Strategy Update**126**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on progress on delivery of the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028.

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

Decided: that (a) the progress on implementation of the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 be noted, and (b) it be agreed to receive the next annual update in March 2026.

127 Property Asset Management Public Report – Request Authority to Grant a Licence to Occupy, for the Installation of a Labyrinth at Lunderston Bay, Gourrock**127**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration requesting authority to grant a Licence to Occupy land at Lunderston Bay, to install a Labyrinth.

Decided: that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Physical Assets to complete a Licence to Occupy with Compassionate Inverclyde in order that the group can install a 'Remembering Together Labyrinth', at the location shown on appendix 1 to the report, on the basis of the terms and conditions detailed within the body of the report and on such other terms and conditions as are recommended by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services and the Chief Financial Officer.

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)
Waterfront Leisure Complex – Chiller Replacement	6, 8 & 9
Property Asset Management Private Report – Request Authority to Lease Wellington Park Bowling Club	6 & 9

128 Waterfront Leisure Complex – Chiller Replacement**128**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the tender return position in respect of the Waterfront Leisure Complex Chiller Replacement project.

Provost McKenzie and Councillors Brooks and Clocherty declared a connection 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 they were declaring for transparency.

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

129 Property Asset Management Private Report – Request Authority to Lease Wellington Park Bowling Club**129**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration requesting authority to lease the Wellington Park Bowling Club.

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