

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 27 FEBRUARY 2025

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 27 February 2025 at 4pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, 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
Katrina Phillips	Interim 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
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer

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

76 **Apologies and Declarations of Interest** 76

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

No declarations of interest were intimated.

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

77 **Local Review Body - 4 December 2024** 77

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

78 **Inverclyde Council - 5 December 2024** 78

Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie subject to the correction at paragraph 586 which should read: Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee: Convener - Councillor McGuire/Vice-Convener - Councillor Moran.

79 **Audit Committee - 7 January 2025** 79

Approved on the motion of Councillor Curley.

80 **Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel - 14 January 2025** 80

Approved on the motion of Councillor Brennan.

81 Environment & Regeneration Committee - 16 January 2025 81

Approved on the motion of Councillor Cassidy.

82 Education & Communities Committee - 21 January 2025 82

Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.

83 Inverclyde Council (Special) - 23 January 2025 83

Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.

84 Petitions Committee - 30 January 2025 84

Approved on the motion of Councillor Curley.

85 Policy & Resources Committee - 4 February 2025 85

Approved on the motion of Councillor McGuire.

86 Planning Board - 5 February 2025 86

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

87 Local Review Body – 5 February 2025 87

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

88 Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel - 6 February 2025 88

Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.

89 General Purposes Board - 12 February 2025 89

Approved on the motion of Councillor Jackson.

90 Inverclyde Council (Special) - 13 February 2025 90

Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.

91 Council Representation on the Board of River Clyde Homes 91

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

92 Implementation of SLARC Report's Recommendations 92

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) requesting that the Council notes the outcome of the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC) report relating to the remuneration of

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Elected Members of local authorities in Scotland and the forthcoming implementation by legislation from 1 April 2025 of some of the recommendations in that report including updated salaries for elected members, (2) seeking agreement for the number of and remuneration to Senior Councillors, as detailed in a number of options at paragraph 3.14 of the report, and (3) seeking confirmation of the level of remuneration payable to the Civic Head of the Council in terms of the 2025 Regulations and that the same will be paid to the Provost of Inverclyde Council.

Decided:

(1) that the recommendations of the SLARC Report and the forthcoming implementation by the 2025 Regulations of the reports recommendations relating to pay and banding be noted;

(2) that the remuneration to be paid to the Council Leader (£50,063) and Elected Members who are not Senior Councillors (£25,982) from 1 April 2025 be noted;

(3) that (a) it be agreed that Option 4 be implemented, namely that the number of Senior Councillors be increased from 9 to 10 and that those Senior Councillors be paid the maximum salary of £31,765 from 1 April 2025, and (b) that the Convener of the Policy & Resources Committee be added to the list of Senior Councillors so that the list of Senior Councillors is as follows:

Leader of the Largest Non-Administration Group

Depute Leader

Convener – Audit Committee

Convener – Education & Communities Committee

Convener – Environment & Regeneration Committee

Convener – Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Chair – Inverclyde Licensing Board

Chair – General Purposes Board

Chair – Planning Board

Convener – Policy & Resources Committee; and

(4) that the level of remuneration payable to the Civic Head of the Council in terms of the 2025 Regulations be £37,458 per annum and that this be paid to the Provost of Inverclyde Council.

93 Management Structure – Phase 3

93

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (1) advising that phase 3 of the ongoing management review has been paused (a) as the current Chief Executive is leaving Inverclyde Council on 5 May 2025, and (b) until a new Chief Executive is in post, and (2) seeking agreement that the Council rejoins Digital Office currently hosted by COSLA.

Decided:

(1) that it be agreed (a) to pause phase 3 of the management review, and (b) a further report with recommendations for the management structure will be brought to a future meeting of the Inverclyde Council once a new Chief Executive is in place; and

(2) that it be agreed the Council rejoins Digital Office to increase the Council's capacity to deliver digital transformation at a cost of £32,484 per year on a reoccurring basis.

94 Scheme of Administration – Appointments and Political Balance

94

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) requesting that the Council appoints a new Elected member to the Board of River Clyde Homes following the resignation of Councillor Curley, (2) advising that Councillor Robertson has resigned as leader of the SNP Group and that Councillor Curley

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has been appointed as the group's new leader and is now, consequently, the Leader of the Largest Non-Administration Group, (3) advising that the administrative suspension of Councillor McCabe from the Labour Group has now been lifted meaning that Councillor McCabe now sits on the Council as part of the Labour Group, (4) advising of the amendments required to ensure political balance and compliance with other governance requirements on Committee, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies, (5) advising of proposed changes to the membership of the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies, some of which are required as a consequence of the events referred to and some requested for other reasons, and (6) seeking agreement for the membership of such Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies where appropriate.

Decided:

- (1) that following the resignation of Councillor Curley from the Board of River Clyde Homes that Councillor Brennan be appointed as a replacement;
 - (2) that the appointment of Councillor Curley as the new leader of the SNP group and Leader of Largest Non-Administration Group be noted;
 - (3) that the lifting of the suspension of Councillor McCabe from the Labour Group and that Councillor McCabe now sits on the Council as a member of the Labour Group be noted;
 - (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; and
 - (5) that the changes to the membership of Inverclyde Council's Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies be agreed as follows:
- Policy & Resources Committee – Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as a member of the Labour Group
- Environment & Regeneration Committee – Councillor Daisley to replace Councillor Robertson
- Education & Communities Committee – no change
- Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel - Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as a member of the Labour Group
- Audit Committee - Councillor Reynolds to replace Councillor Robertson
- General Purposes Board - Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McCabe
- Planning Board - Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as a member of the Labour Group
- Human Resources Appeals Board – no change
- Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee - Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as a member of the Labour Group and Councillor Curley to replace Councillor Robertson
- Grants Sub-Committee – no change
- Local Review Body - Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as a member of the Labour Group
- Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee – no change
- Petitions Committee – no change
- Licensing Board – Councillor Daisley to replace Councillor Robertson
- Convention of Scottish Local Authorities - Councillor Curley to replace Councillor Robertson
- Inverclyde Task Force - Councillor Curley to replace Councillor Robertson

Private Appendices to Minutes