

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 1 APRIL 2008

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 1 April 2008 at 3.00 pm

Present: Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Ferguson, McCabe, McIlwee, McKenzie, Moran, Rebecchi (for Fyfe) and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education & Social Care, Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection, Corporate Director Improvement & Performance, Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources, Chief Financial Officer, Head of Legal & Administration, Head of Economic & Social Regeneration, Head of ICT & Business Transformation, Head of Performance Management & Procurement, Head of Organisational Development & Human Resources, Head of Property Resources & Facilities Management, Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs and Legal Services Manager (Procurement, District Court & Administration).

Apologies: Councillors Fyfe and MacLeod.

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

234 Draft Inverclyde Alliance Community Plan 2008 - 2018, Inspiring Inverclyde 234

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance presenting the draft Inverclyde Alliance Community Plan 2008 - 2018 "Inspiring Inverclyde" for consideration by the Committee prior to submission to the next meeting of the Alliance Board on 28 April 2008 for approval.

(Councillor Blair entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided: that the Committee endorse the draft Community Plan for 2008 - 2018.

235 Inverclyde Single Outcome Agreement 235

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection on the final draft of the Inverclyde Single Outcome Agreement, to be used as a basis for negotiation with the Scottish Government.

Mr David Wilson and Mr Wilson Malone of the Scottish Government, were present and Mr Wilson answered a number of questions from Members.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the final Single Outcome Agreement;
- (2) that the Single Outcome Agreement be submitted to the Scottish Government;
- (3) that negotiations take place with the Scottish Government on the nature, purpose and content of Inverclyde's Single Outcome Agreement;
- (4) that the Chief Executive and relevant Officers ensure that suitable arrangements are made for negotiating the final Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government with any significant changes or issues of substance being referred to the Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee for consideration; and
- (5) that a final copy of the Single Outcome Agreement be presented to the Committee following negotiations with the Scottish Government by the end of June 2008.

Mr Wilson and Mr Malone departed from the meeting following consideration of this item

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of business.

- 236 Revenue Budget 2007/08 - Period 10 236**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Director Improvement & Performance and Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources on the position of the 2007/08 Revenue Budget as at Period 10 (31 January 2008) which is projecting an underspend of £785,000.
- Noted**
- 237 General Fund Revenue Budget 2007/08 - Period 10 237**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the current position of the 2007/08 General Fund Revenue Budget as at Period 10 (31 January 2008) and (2) providing an update on the position of the Earmarked Reserves.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the current position of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2007/08 as at Period 10;
- (2) that the Committee note the current position of the General Fund Reserve and Earmarked Reserves; and
- (3) that it be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Corporate Management Team to establish further Earmarked Reserves and whether to write back to the General Fund Reserve any of the unspent balances as at 31 March 2008.
- 238 Capital Programme 2007/08 238**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the current position of the one year Capital Programme 2007/08 and (2) advising of any significant matters.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the current position of the 2007/08 Capital Programme and that future reports will report the position of the three year period 2008/11.
- 239 Significant Trading Operations - 2008/09 239**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval with regard to the Significant Trading Operations to be operated by the Council for the financial year 2008/09.
- Decided:**
- (1) that approval be given to the continued designation of Building Services, Roads Maintenance and Vehicle Management as Significant Trading Operations for the financial year 2008/09; and
- (2) that it be noted existing Significant Trading Organisations will submit three year business plans during 2008/09 and other potential Significant Trading Operation areas will be reviewed by the relevant Corporate Directors over the next 12 months.
- 240 Modernisation & Efficiency Programme - Progress Report 240**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance on progress made in implementing the Council's Modernisation & Efficiency Programme.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the good progress being made with the implementation

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of the Council's Modernisation & Efficiency Programme;

(2) that approval be given to the inclusion of the IP Telephony project within the first phase of the Modernisation & Efficiency Programme;

(3) that approval be given to the revised funding profile for the Modernisation & Efficiency Programme as detailed in appendix 2 to the report; and

(4) that a further report on the Modernisation & Efficiency Programme be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

241 ICT Capital Programme Update

241

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance on the current position with regard to the 2005/08 ICT Capital Programme.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the improved position and progress with the ICT Capital Programme; and

(2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to the Head of ICT & Business Transformation and his staff.

242 Overtime Efficiency Review - Recommendations

242

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance (1) on the outcome of the Overtime Efficiency Review and (2) seeking endorsement of the recommendations made by the Review Team.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee endorse the recommendations made by the Overtime Efficiency Review Team;

(2) that it be noted the identified savings of £25,000 were incorporated into the 2008/2009 Budget; and

(3) that it be noted that the Head of Organisational Development & Human Resources will progress a joint position statement on overtime following the completion of discussions with the trades unions on single status.

243 Corporate Performance Report

243

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance appending the Corporate Performance Report for January/February 2008 which complements existing Directorate Performance Reporting arrangements to Committee and is a key component of the Council's overall Strategic Planning & Performance Management Framework.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee endorse the performance information contained in the Corporate Performance Report;

(2) that the format of the Performance Report be updated to incorporate key performance information from the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Single Outcome Agreement; and

(3) that it be noted that further reports on Corporate Performance will be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

244 Improvement & Performance Directorate Performance Report

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance on

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progress made by the Improvement & Performance Directorate in achieving its key objectives as set out in its Directorate Plan for 2007/08 and the contribution made to the achievement of key corporate priorities.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the performance information contained in the report and note that further reports on the performance of the Improvement & Performance Directorate will be submitted to future meetings of the Committee; and
- (2) that Members be requested to identify any further performance information from the list detailed in the report for submission to the next meeting of the Committee.

245 Regeneration & Resources Directorate Performance Report 245

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources on the progress made by those services within the Regeneration & Resources Directorate which report to the Policy & Resources Committee in achieving their key objectives as set out in the Regeneration & Resources Directorate Plan and how they have contributed to the achievement of key corporate priorities.

Decided: that the Committee endorse the performance information contained in the report and note that further reports on performance will be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

246 Strategic Planning & Performance Management Framework - Progress Report 246

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement and Performance on the progress made to date in developing and implementing the Council's Strategic Planning & Performance Management Framework.

Decided: that the Committee endorse the progress made to date in developing and implementing the Strategic Planning & Performance Management Framework.

247 Treasury Management - Strategy 2008/09 and Treasury Management Practices 247

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for (1) the Treasury Management Strategy for 2008/09, (2) the Council's Prudential Indicators for the next three years and (3) the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators as outlined in the report; and
- (2) that approval be given to the Treasury Management Practices outlined in the report.

248 Group Life Assurance Scheme 248

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval to implement changes to the Council's Group Life Assurance Scheme.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed that from 1 April 2009 retired employees will no longer be part of the Group Life Assurance Scheme and that with immediate effect current employees will not be allowed to continue in the Group Life Assurance Scheme beyond their retirement date;
- (2) that from 1 April 2009 all employees will be eligible for one year's life cover only; and
- (3) that approval be given to utilise the Council's Insurance Brokers to tender for the

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renewal of the Group Life Policy to come into force in April 2009.

- 249 Establishment of a Capital Fund 249**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for the establishment of a Capital Fund to allow Capital Receipts to be used to fund the principal elements of loans charges repayments.
- Decided:** that approval be given to the establishment of a Capital Fund and that it be agreed that from 2008/09 all relevant Capital Receipts be paid into the Fund.
- 250 Audit of Best Value & Community Planning Position Statement November 2006 - February 2008 250**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance presenting the latest Position Statement in respect of the Audit of Best Value & Community Planning.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee approve the Position Statement to be submitted to Audit Scotland;
 - (2) that an update on progress be submitted to the June meeting of the Committee;
 - (3) that a further report be submitted to the Committee once the final report by the Accounts Commission is published; and
 - (4) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to those Officers and Elected Members involved in the process.
- 251 Financial Strategy for Inverclyde Council 251**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance seeking approval of a financial strategy for Inverclyde Council to provide clear direction on how the Council will structure and manage its financial resources in the medium to long term to ensure they are deployed effectively to achieve corporate objectives. Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest in this matter as a Board Member of River Clyde Homes. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the Chamber or his participation in the decision making process.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee approve the Financial Strategy for Inverclyde Council as set out in appendix A to the report;
 - (2) that approval be given to the action plan contained in appendix B to the report; and
 - (3) that approval be given to the arrangements for reviewing and updating the Strategy as outlined in the report.
- 252 Citizens' Panel - Quality of Life Survey Results 252**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance on the results of the first citizens' panel survey, issued in December 2007, which focused on the theme of quality of life.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
 - (2) that relevant issues raised by the citizens' panel be addressed in the new Directorate Plans.

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253 Clyde Valley Learning & Development Project - Shared Services 253

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development & Human Resources on the progress of the Clyde Valley Learning & Development Project in respect of which the Council has been working in partnership with other Clyde Valley Councils to review areas where joint training and contract purchase could be of benefit.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the Council is participating in the Clyde Valley Learning & Development Project;
- (2) that the Committee note the progress made to date; and
- (3) that The Inverclyde Council be requested to appoint an Elected Member and a substitute to the Clyde Valley Consortium Joint Committee.

254 Property Surplus to Education Services' Requirements - Use of Capital Receipts - Remit from Education & Lifelong Learning Committee 254

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee of 11 March 2008 relative to the Capital Receipts generated from the disposal of Barmoss Nursery and the Mearns Centre.

Decided: that the Capital Receipts generated from the disposal of Barmoss Nursery and the Mearns Centre be allocated to the School Estate Strategy Funding Model.

255 Capital Programme 2008/11 - Property Services Allocation 2008/09: Use of Consultants - Remit from Regeneration Committee 255

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Regeneration Committee of 13 March 2008 for approval to invite tenders from consultants not on any of the Council's approved lists in circumstances where there is currently no in-house expertise.

Decided: that, with regard to the Property Services Allocation 2008/09 projects and pre-contract works projects, approval be given to the invitation of tenders from consultants not on any of the Council's approved lists in circumstances where there is currently no in-house expertise.

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 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)
Fairer Scotland Fund - Staff Resource	1
Amendment to Education & Social Care Establishment	1

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**Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive - (1) 6
AutoCAD and (2) Conditions Surveys: Asset
Management Planning**

- 256 Fairer Scotland Fund - Staff Resource 256**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources seeking approval for the creation of posts to assist in the management of the Council's function of accountable body for the Fairer Scotland Fund on behalf of Inverclyde Alliance.
- Decided:**
- (1) that approval be given to the creation of the posts for the management of the Fairer Scotland Fund as host employer as set out in the report; and
- (2) that the setting of grades for the required posts, within the job evaluation and single status framework, be delegated to the Head of Organisational Development & Human Resources.
- 257 Amendment to Education & Social Care Establishment 257**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development & Human Resources recommending amendments to the Education & Social Care Establishment.
- Decided:** that approval be given to making permanent the posts of Development Officer (MCMC) Grade PO18 (£42,129 - £45,117) and Development Officer (Art) Grade PO8 (£33,474 - £35,904).
- 258 Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive - (1) AutoCAD and (2) Conditions Surveys: Asset Management Planning 258**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive since the last ordinary meeting of the Committee to approve the invitation of tenders from specialist companies who are not currently registered on the Council's Approved Contractors List for (1) AutoCAD and (2) Conditions Surveys.
- Noted**