

## THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL - 12 FEBRUARY 2009

### The Inverclyde Council

**Thursday 12 February 2009 at 4.00 pm**

**Present:** Provost McCormick, Councillors Ahlfeld, Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Dorrian, Ferguson, Fyfe, Grieve, Loughran, McCabe, McCallum, McIlwee, McKenzie, Moran, Osborne, Rebecchi, White and Wilson.

**Chair:** Provost McCormick 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 Economic & Social Regeneration, Head of ICT & Business Transformation, Head of Legal & Administration, Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs, Head of Property Resources & Facilities Management and Legal Services Manager (Courts & Litigation).

**Apologies:** Councillor MacLeod.

### 116 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Budget 2009/11

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing information to allow the Council to set a balanced General Fund Revenue Budget for 2009/11 and (2) requesting the Council to approve the Capital Programme for 2009/11 and thereafter confirm the level of Council Tax for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

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

Councillors Ahlfeld, McKenzie, White and Wilson declared a non financial interest in this matter as Members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of the interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision making process.

After discussion Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor McKenzie moved:-

(1) that the 2009/11 General Fund Revenue Budget be agreed in terms of the Coalition Administration's proposals (appendix 1 to the minute);

(2) that the Council confirm the 3 year Capital Programme 2008/11 subject to the addition of the capital projects contained in appendix 4 of the Coalition Administration's proposals, on the basis that the appropriate financial implications are built into the Revenue Budget 2009/11;

(3) that agreement be given to the proposals in respect of the General Fund Reserves on the basis of the Coalition Administration's proposals after taking into account the Chief Financial Officer's firm recommendation that the General Reserve Balance should not fall below £4m;

(4) that approval be given to the revised School Estate Management Plan Funding Model contained in appendix 6;

(5) that the Council agree to transfer the ownership of Lynedoch Industrial Estate, Drumfrochar Industrial Estate and Victoria House to Riverside Inverclyde on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Legal & Administration, on the basis of the District Valuer's valuation less dilapidations and that the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources take the necessary steps to ensure the transfer of ownership takes place by 31 March 2009;

116 (6) that the Council agree a 2 year Common Good Fund Budget and approve any usage of the Common Good Fund Balance taking into account the recommendation of

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the Chief Financial Officer that the balance does not fall below £150,000 by 31 March 2011;

(7) that the Council approve the Inverclyde Leisure Business Plan 2009-14 subject to any changes reflected in the Coalition Administration's budget proposals;

(8) that the increases in respect of fees and charges outlined in section 15 be confirmed; and

(9) that the level of Band D Council Tax for financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 remain at £1,198 subject to the Scottish Government maintaining the current level of Council Tax Freeze Grant.

As an amendment, Councillor Brooks seconded by Councillor Grieve moved:-

(1) that the 2009/11 General Fund Revenue Budget be agreed in terms of the Scottish National Group's proposals (appendix 2 to the minute);

(2) that the Council confirm the 3 year Capital Programme 2008/11 subject to the addition of the capital projects contained in appendix 4 of the Scottish National Group's proposals, on the basis that the appropriate financial implications are built into the Revenue Budget 2009/11;

(3) that agreement be given to the proposals in respect of the General Fund Reserves on the basis of the Scottish National Group's proposals after taking into account the Chief Financial Officer's firm recommendation that the General Reserve Balance should not fall below £4m;

(4) that approval be given to the revised School Estate Management Plan Funding Model contained in appendix 6;

(5) that the Council agree to transfer the ownership of Lynedoch Industrial Estate, Drumfrochar Industrial Estate and Victoria House to Riverside Inverclyde on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Legal & Administration, on the basis of the District Valuer's valuation less dilapidations and that the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources take the necessary steps to ensure that the transfer of ownership takes place by 31 March 2009;

(6) that the Council agree a 2 year Common Good Fund Budget and approve any usage of the Common Good Fund Balance taking into account the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer that the balance does not fall below £150,000 by 31 March 2011;

(7) that the Council approve the Inverclyde Leisure Business Plan 2009-14 subject to any changes reflected in the Scottish National Group's budget proposals;

(8) that the increases in respect of fees and charges outlined in section 15 be confirmed; and

(9) that the level of Band D Council Tax for financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 remain at £1,198.

As a further amendment, Councillor Blair seconded by Councillor White moved:-

(1) that the 2009/11 General Fund Revenue Budget be agreed in terms of the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals (appendix 3 to the minute);

(2) that the Council confirm the 3 year Capital Programme 2008/11 subject to the addition of the capital projects contained in appendix 4 of the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals on the basis that the appropriate financial implications are built into the Revenue Budget 2009/11;

(3) that agreement be given to the proposals in respect of the General Fund Reserves on the basis of the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals after taking into account the Chief Financial Officer's firm recommendation that the General Reserve Balance should not fall below £4m;

(4) that approval be given to the revised School Estate Management Plan Funding Model contained in appendix 6;

(5) that the Council agree to transfer the ownership of Lynedoch Industrial Estate,

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Drumfrochar Industrial Estate and Victoria House to Riverside Inverclyde on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Legal & Administration on the basis of the District Valuer's valuation less dilapidations and that the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources take the necessary steps to ensure that the transfer of ownership takes place by 31 March 2009;

(6) that the Council agree a 2 year Common Good Fund Budget and approve any usage of the Common Good Fund Balance taking into account the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer that the balance does not fall below £150,000 by 31 March 2011;

(7) that the Council approve the Inverclyde Leisure Business Plan 2009-14 subject to any changes reflected in the Liberal Democrat Group's budget proposals;

(8) that the increases in respect of fees and charges outlined in section 15 be confirmed; and

(9) that the level of Band D Council Tax for financial year 2009/10 remain at £1,198.

On a vote between the 2 amendments, 4 Members voted for the amendment by Councillor Brooks and 4 for the amendment by Councillor Blair. There being equality in voting, the decision was determined by lot. On a cut of the cards, Councillor Brooks' card was of a higher value than that drawn by Councillor Rebecchi and, accordingly, Councillor Blair's amendment fell.

On a vote between the amendment by Councillor Brooks and the motion, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 11 for the motion which was declared carried.

### **Decided:**

(1) that the 2009/11 General Fund Revenue Budget be agreed in terms of the Coalition Administration's proposals (appendix 1 to the minute);

(2) that the Council confirm the 3 year Capital Programme 2008/11 subject to the addition of the capital projects contained in appendix 4 of the Coalition Administration's proposals on the basis that the appropriate financial implications are built into the Revenue Budget 2009/11;

(3) that agreement be given to the proposals in respect of the General Fund Reserves on the basis of the Coalition Administration's proposals after taking into account the Chief Financial Officer's firm recommendation that the General Reserve Balance should not fall below £4m;

(4) that approval be given to the revised School Estate Management Plan Funding Model contained in appendix 6;

(5) that the Council agree to transfer the ownership of Lynedoch Industrial Estate, Drumfrochar Industrial Estate and Victoria House to Riverside Inverclyde on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Legal & Administration on the basis of the District Valuer's valuation less dilapidations and that the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources take the necessary steps to ensure that the transfer of ownership takes place by 31 March 2009;

(6) that the Council agree a 2 year Common Good Fund Budget and approve any usage of the Common Good Fund Balance taking into account the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer that the balance does not fall below £150,000 by 31 March 2011;

(7) that the Council approve the Inverclyde Leisure Business Plan subject to any changes reflected in the Coalition Administration's budget proposals;

(8) that the increases in respect of fees and charges outlined in section 15 be confirmed; and

(9) that the level of Band D Council Tax for financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 remain at £1,198 subject to the Scottish Government maintaining the current level of Council Tax Freeze Grant.

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Arising from the foregoing paragraph, Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor McKenzie moved that the Council resolve to fix the "Band D" Council Tax for 2009/10 at £1,198.

**Decided:** that the Band D Council Tax for 2009/10 be fixed at £1,198.

**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 paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

**118 Inverclyde Leisure Business Plan 2009-14**

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There was submitted Inverclyde Leisure Business Plan 2009-14.

**Noted**