

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 20 SEPTEMBER 2011

Policy & Resources CommitteeTuesday 20 September 2011 at 4.30 pm

Present: Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, McCabe, Ahlfeld (for McIlwee), McKenzie, MacLeod, Moran, Nelson, Wilson and White.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education & Communities, Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership, Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Manager, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Head of Environmental & Commercial Services, Mr J Lawrence (Environmental Services), Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance, Business Manager and Mr M Bingham (Corporate Communications & Public Affairs).

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

593 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 593

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McIlwee with Councillor Ahlfeld substituting.

Councillors Clocherty and Wilson declared an interest in agenda item 3(b) (The Tall Ships Races 2011, Greenock - Remit from Regeneration Committee).

594 Policy & Resources Committee 2011/12 Revenue Budget - Period 4 to 31 July 2011 594

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment and Chief Financial Officer on the position of the 2011/12 Revenue Budget as at Period 4 (31 July 2011).

Decided: that the Committee note the outturn for 2010/11 and the current projected underspend of £177,000 for 2011/12 as at 31 July 2011.

595 General Fund Revenue Budget 2011/12 - Period 4 595

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the projected position of the 2011/12 General Fund Revenue Budget as at Period 4 (31 July 2011) and (2) requesting the Committee to consider recommendations regarding the surplus General Fund Reserves contained in section 7 of the report.

Members asked a number of specific questions on this agenda item and then considered the reports relative to agenda items 3(a), 3(b), 3(c) and the additional agenda item, all of which included requests for additional funding, prior to consideration of the recommendations contained in this item.

596 Roads Maintenance Backlog - Investment 596

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment requesting the Committee to provide additional investment in the roads network to reduce the current maintenance backlog.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the request of the Convener of the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee and the Leader of the Council for a report on options for

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additional funding to address, in the short term, measures to reduce the winter maintenance backlog and to rectify damage done to the roads network as a result of recent severe winters;

(2) that it be agreed to provide additional investment of £1M from the General Fund Reserves in the roads network to reduce the current maintenance backlog;

(3) that the contents of the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey summary information contained in paragraph 4.6 of the report be noted;

(4) that the Committee note the deterioration of Inverclyde's roads network and the calculated cost of £11.235M to eliminate the maintenance backlog and to bring the network to a good state of repair;

(5) that it be noted that between financial years 2007/08 and 2010/11 over £7.1M has been invested in surfacing and repairs to the Council's roads and footways;

(6) that the Committee note the investment of £1M of capital funding in the current financial year to address carriageway and footway reconstruction as approved by the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee on 8 March 2011;

(7) that it be remitted to the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee to approve the proposed programme of works to reduce the current maintenance backlog;

(8) that it be remitted to the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services to prioritise the additional expenditure to reduce the maintenance backlog within the roads network by targeting specific areas as identified in the tables set out in paragraph 4.6 of the report and that the Committee grant approval for the acceptance of such tenders to carry out the work in terms of the Standing Orders relating to Contracts; and

(9) that it be remitted to the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services to bring forward for consideration to a future meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee a detailed long term investment plan for all roads network assets within Inverclyde.

597 The Tall Ships Races 2011, Greenock Remit from Regeneration Committee

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment on a remit from the Regeneration Committee of 1 September 2011 requesting that the Policy & Resources Committee agree to provide 50% of the event funding shortfall up to a maximum of £100,000.

Councillors Clocherty and Wilson declared a non-financial interest in this matter as members of the Board of Sail Inverclyde Ltd. They also formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision making process.

Decided: that it be agreed to provide 50% of the event funding shortfall up to a maximum of £100,000 from the General Fund Reserves.

598 Development of a Community Facility at Inverkip Remit from Regeneration Committee

598

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment on a remit from the Regeneration Committee of 1 September 2011 relative to the funding package for the development of a community facility within Inverkip Village as outlined in paragraph 5.5 of the report to the Regeneration Committee including the provision of advance payment and funding source by the Council in lieu of tranche 2 from the Section 69 Agreement.

Decided: that the proposed funding for the development of a community facility within Inverkip Village as set out in paragraph 5.5 of the report to the Regeneration Committee be approved and that it be remitted to officers to include advance payment of £300,000 by the Council in lieu of tranche 2 from the Section 69 Agreement as part of the 2012/13 budget process, the funding potentially being sourced from the General Fund Reserves.

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The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the purchase of the equipment, if agreed by the Committee, at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.

599 Winter Maintenance Resilience - Funding for Additional Equipment

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment seeking approval for additional funding for winter maintenance equipment to improve the Council's winter maintenance resilience.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed to fund the purchase of the equipment detailed in paragraph 4.5 of the report at a total estimated cost of £32,100 from the General Fund Reserves;
- (2) that it be noted that, in the first instance, the equipment will be utilised to treat footway priority areas as identified within the Winter Service, Policy, Procedures and Resources document and that the cost of such work will be included within the Council's Winter Maintenance Budget with any other requests to provide assistance outwith these areas being dependent on available resources and being carried out on a rechargeable basis by Environmental & Commercial Services; and
- (3) that it be remitted to the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services to prioritise the use of the equipment and labour during severe winter weather.

600 General Fund Revenue Budget 2011/12 - Period 4

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The Committee resumed consideration of this item of business.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the latest projection for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2011/12 and the information contained in the various appendices to the report;
- (2) that it be agreed to provide additional investment of £1M from the General Fund Reserves in the roads network to reduce the current maintenance backlog;
- (3) that it be agreed to provide 50% of the Tall Ships Event 2011 funding shortfall up to a maximum of £100,000 from the General Fund Reserves; and
- (4) that it be agreed to fund the purchase of the winter maintenance equipment detailed in paragraph 4.5 of the report on Winter Maintenance Resilience - Funding for Additional Equipment at a total estimated cost of £32,100 from the General Fund Reserves.

601 Policy & Resources Capital Programme - (2011/12 - 13/14) - Progress Report

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the status of the projects forming the Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2011/12 - 13/14 and (2) highlighting the actual spend as at 31 July 2011.

Noted

602 Capital Programme 2011/14

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the current position of the 2011/14 Capital Programme.

Noted

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603 Procurement - Update**603**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the progress being made with procurement, particularly against the Strategic Procurement Framework, since the last report to the Committee in March 2011 and (2) giving an update on the savings achieved.

(Councillors Nelson and Wilson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided: that the Committee note the progress made since the last report and that further updates on the implementation of the Strategic Procurement Framework and procurement savings will be submitted as required.

604 Debt Recovery Performance 2010/11**604**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer advising of the Council's debt recovery performance during 2010/11 and of future plans in this regard.

Decided: that the Committee note the Council's continued good performance in the area of debt recovery in 2010/11.

605 Organisational Improvement & Resources Directorate Performance Report**605**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance and the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing a final update on the progress made by the Organisational Improvement & Resources Directorate in achieving its key objectives as set out in its Directorate Plan for 2010/11 and (2) advising on performance in relation to key performance indicators.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee endorse the performance information contained in the report; and

(2) that it be noted this is the last performance report relating to the Organisational Improvement & Resources Directorate Plan 2010/11 and that future reports will detail performance in relation to the new 2011/12 Directorate Plan.

606 Organisational Improvement & Resources Directorate Plan 2011-12**606**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance and the Chief Financial Officer on the Organisational Improvement & Resources Directorate Plan 2011-12.

Decided: that the Committee approve the Organisational Improvement & Resources Directorate Plan 2011-12 as set out in the appendix to the report.

607 Regeneration & Environment Directorate Plan**607**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment on the revised Regeneration & Environment Directorate Plan 2011-12.

Decided: that the Committee note the contents of the Regeneration & Environment Directorate Plan 2011-12 as set out in the appendix to the report.