

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 7 FEBRUARY 2012

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 7 February 2012 at 3 pm

Present: Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, McCabe, McIlwee, Loughran (for 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, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Chief Financial Officer, Mr A Wilson (for Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance), Head of Education, Head of Property Assets & Facilities Management, Finance Manager, Ms A Edmiston (Finance Services), Chief Internal Auditor, Corporate Procurement Manager, Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager, Business Manager and Corporate Communications Manager.

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

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| 89 | Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | 89 |
| | <p>An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McKenzie with Councillor Loughran substituting.
Councillor Clocherty declared an interest in agenda item 22 (Gourock Pierhead Enabling Works).</p> | |
| 90 | Policy & Resources Capital Programme - (2011/12 - 13/14) - Progress Report | 90 |
| | <p>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 actual spend as at 31 December 2011.
Noted</p> | |
| 91 | Capital Programme 2011/14 | 91 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the 2011/14 Capital Programme.
(Councillor Wilson entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business).
Decided: that the Committee note the current position of the 2011/14 Capital Programme and that decisions to close the current funding gap will be taken at the special meeting of the Council on 9 February 2012.</p> | |
| 92 | Policy & Resources Committee 2011/12 Revenue Budget - Period 8 | 92 |
| | <p>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 8 (30 November 2011) which projected an underspend of £1,193,000 excluding earmarked reserves.
Noted</p> | |

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| 93 | General Fund Revenue Budget 2011/12 - Period 8 | 93 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the projected position of the 2011/12 General Fund Revenue Budget as at Period 8 (30 November 2011) which currently projected an underspend of £2.688m.</p> <p>Noted</p> | |
| 94 | Review of Saving Workstream Targets | 94 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval of revised workstream savings targets following a review by the Corporate Management Team.</p> <p>Decided: that approval be given to the latest targets in respect of the savings workstreams.</p> | |
| 95 | Revenue Budget 2012/13, Capital Programme 2011/15 and Common Good Budget 2012/13 | 95 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position in respect of the previously agreed Revenue Budget 2012/13, Capital Programme 2011/15 and Common Good Budget 2012/13 in advance of the special meeting of the Council on 9 February 2012.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee note the updated position in respect of the Revenue Budget 2012/13, Capital Programme 2011/15 and Common Good Budget 2012/13; and</p> <p>(2) that it be noted specific decisions in respect of the budget will be considered at the special meeting of the Council on 9 February 2012.</p> | |
| 96 | Procurement - Update | 96 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the progress being made with procurement since the last report to the Committee in November 2011.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee welcome the achievement of 'Conformance Status' following the recent Procurement Capability Assessment audit;</p> <p>(2) that approval be given to the refreshed 2012/14 Procurement Strategy Action Plan appended to the report; and</p> <p>(3) that the Committee note the progress made in savings delivery.</p> | |
| 97 | Organisational Improvement & Resources Directorate Performance Report | 97 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance and the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the progress made by the Organisational Improvement & Resources Directorate in achieving its key objectives as set out in its Directorate Plan for 2011/12 and (2) advising on performance in relation to key performance indicators.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee endorse the performance information contained in the report; and</p> <p>(2) that it be noted that further reports on the performance of the Organisational Improvement & Resources Directorate will be submitted to future meetings of the</p> | |

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98 Regeneration & Environment Directorate Performance Report 98

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment on (1) progress made by the Regeneration & Environment Directorate in achieving its key objectives as set out in its Directorate Plan for 2011/12 and (2) performance in relation to key performance indicators.

Decided:

- (1) that the performance information contained in the report be endorsed; and
- (2) that it be noted that further reports on performance will be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

99 Consultation on Council Tax on Long-Term Empty Properties 99

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Communities and the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the Scottish Government Consultation Paper on Council Tax on Long-Term Empty Properties and (2) providing details of the Council's response to the consultation, which closed on 10 January 2012.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the Scottish Government Consultation Paper on Council Tax on Long-Term Empty Properties; and
- (2) that approval be given to the consultation responses submitted to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Council.

100 Information Governance and Management 100

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership seeking approval of an Information Governance and Management Framework, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the Information Governance and Management Framework as the overarching policy framework for this area of responsibility; and
- (2) that it be noted further reports providing the policy and guidance structure to underpin the framework will be presented to the Committee.

101 Corporate Equalities Group Update and Action Plan 2011-12 101

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Communities (1) providing an update on the work of the Corporate Equalities Group in the light of the Equality Act 2010 and (2) seeking approval of the Action Plan 2011-12, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Decided: that approval be given to the Corporate Equalities Group's Action Plan 2011-12 for implementation across all Directorates and Services.

102 Fair Trade 102

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) requesting the Committee to reaffirm its support for the Fair Trade campaign and (2) recommending a Corporate Lead Officer to progress the Council's participation in the Fair Trade Nation Campaign.

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Decided:

- (1) that agreement be given to the Council pursuing Fair Trade Zone status and that this should be achieved as quickly as practicable; and
- (2) that it be agreed the Corporate Director Education & Communities be the Corporate Lead at Officer level on Fair Trade matters, reporting to the Committee on progress as and when required.

103 Depopulation Research Study**103**

There was submitted a report by the Chair of the Single Outcome Agreement Programme Board (1) advising of the key findings and recommendations of the Depopulation Research Study carried out by Slims Consulting and (2) advising of the course of action agreed by the Alliance Board to progress the key findings and recommendations on a partnership basis.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the report and the Final Study Report; and
- (2) that the Committee endorse the course of action agreed by the Alliance Board to address the key findings and recommendations of the Study on a partnership basis.

104 Results from Spring 2011 and Autumn 2011 Citizens' Panel Surveys**104**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance providing details of the headline results from the Spring 2011 and Autumn 2011 Citizens' Panel Surveys.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed that the feedback from the Citizens' Panel be used to inform the Council's approach to customer service and public performance reporting.

105 Young Citizens' Panel Pilot Survey**105**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance (1) informing the Committee of the newly established Young Citizens' Panel and (2) highlighting the results from a pilot survey carried out in Spring 2011.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed regular surveys be carried out through the Young Citizens' Panel; and
- (3) that it be agreed that the feedback from the Young Citizens' Panel be used to inform service development.

106 Asbestos Policy**106**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance seeking approval of a Management of Asbestos Policy for the Council.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the Management of Asbestos Policy appended to the report; and
- (2) that the Committee support the policy by active promotion of Health and Safety.

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| 107 | Revised Code of Conduct and Whistleblowing Policy | 107 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance seeking approval of a revised Code of Conduct and a revised Whistleblowing Policy.</p> <p>Decided: that approval be given to the revised Code of Conduct and revised Whistleblowing Policy attached as appendices 1 and 2 to the report.</p> | |
| 108 | Inverclyde Sports Personality of the Year Awards - 2012 | 108 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Communities seeking approval to provide one off emergency funding to the Inverclyde Sports Personality of the Year Awards 2012 following the demise of the previous main sponsor.</p> <p>Decided: that agreement be given to the provision of one off funding of £5,000 to the Inverclyde Sports Personality of the Year Awards 2012 from the Council's Contingency Fund in 2011/12.</p> | |
| 109 | Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board - Update | 109 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer appending the minutes of the meetings of the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board of 26 August and 18 November 2011.</p> <p>Noted</p> | |
| 110 | Gourock Pierhead Enabling Works | 110 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment (1) on the progress of the development of the Gourock Pier and Railhead Development Area and (2) seeking approval relating to a range of issues including implementation of the enabling works.</p> <p>Councillor Clocherty declared a non-financial interest in this item as a member of the Board of Riverside Inverclyde. 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.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee approve the early implementation of enabling works as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report; and</p> <p>(2) that approval be given to the support and funding for the project.</p> <p>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 11 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.</p> | |
| 111 | Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive
Employment Tribunals Equal Pay Claims | 111 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisation Development, HR & Performance advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to</p> | |

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approve action in respect of Employment Tribunal Equal Pay Claims.
Noted