

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 27 MARCH 2012

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 27 March 2012 at 3 pm

Present: Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, McCabe, McIlwee, Loughran (for McKenzie), MacLeod, Moran, Wilson and Ahlfeld (for 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, Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness, Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance, Head of Environmental & Commercial Services, Mr D Hall (for Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities), Business/Democratic Services Manager, Corporate Communications Manager, Finance Manager and Ms A Edmiston (Finance Services).

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

227 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 227

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor White, with Councillor Ahlfeld substituting, Councillor McKenzie, with Councillor Loughran substituting, and Councillor Nelson.

Councillors Clocherty and Loughran declared an interest in agenda item 5 (General Fund Revenue Budget 2011/12 - Period 10).

228 Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2011/12 - 14/15 - Progress Report 228

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 January 2012.

Noted

229 Capital Programme 2011/15 229

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the 2011/15 Capital Programme.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the current position of the 2011/15 Capital Programme following the decisions taken at the special meeting of the Inverclyde Council on 9 February 2012;

(2) that the £0.048M underspend reported by the Regeneration Committee be retained as a contribution to reducing the overall shortfall in the Capital Programme; and

(3) that the Committee agree in principle to provide 50% of the cost increase at the Beacon Arts Facility up to a maximum of £250,000 subject to a detailed report on this matter being submitted to the next meeting of the Regeneration Committee.

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230 Policy & Resources Committee 2011/12 Revenue Budget - Period 10 230

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment and the Chief Financial Officer on the position of the 2011/12 Revenue Budget as at Period 10 (31 January 2012) which projected an underspend of £1.558M excluding Earmarked Reserves.

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

Noted

231 General Fund Revenue Budget 2011/12 - Period 10 231

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 10 (31 January 2012) which currently projected an underspend of £3.78M.

Councillors Clocherty and Loughran declared a non-financial interest in this item as members of the Board of River Clyde Homes. 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:

- (1) that the Committee note the latest position in respect of the 2011/12 Revenue Budget, General Fund Reserves, Earmarked Reserves and Savings Workstreams;
- (2) that approval be given to the creation of a Winter Maintenance Earmarked Reserve and an Independent Living Earmarked Reserve from 1 April 2012;
- (3) that in light of the SNP Government's failure to allocate any funding to Inverclyde to address youth unemployment, the Committee agree to commit £450,000 from the surplus General Fund Reserves in 2012/13 to supplement the already approved additional £600,000, giving a total fund of £1.05M for this purpose; and
- (4) that it be remitted to Officers to submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee with proposals to ensure that the Council maintains free General Fund Reserves at £4.2M in line with the Chief Financial Officer's recommendation and current Council policy.

232 Corporate Performance Report 232

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance providing corporate performance information collected in mid February 2012.

Decided:

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

233 Budget Profiling and Zero Based Budgeting 233

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer requesting the Committee to consider the Council's approach to Budget Profiling and Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB), an issue which had been highlighted in the 2011/12 Audit Members' letter.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed that all Revenue Budget lines above £100,000 and Capital projects with projected spend in 2012/13 of £250,000 be profiled, this change to take

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place for 2012/13; and

(2) that it be agreed to continue with the hybrid budget setting methodology currently in place.

234 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2012/13 - 2014/15 234

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2012/15, Treasury Policy Limits, the Council's Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators for the next three years and the List of Permitted Investments.

Decided:

(1) that the Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy, Treasury Policy Limits, Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management Indicators and List of Permitted Investments (including those for the Common Good Fund) be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval;

(2) that it be remitted to the Council to approve the formal adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (as revised in November 2011);

(3) that the Committee approve an increase in the Counterparty Limit with the Bank of Scotland to £70M until the end of April 2013; and

(4) that the Committee homologate the exceeding of the Treasury Management Practices Limit with the Bank of Scotland for one day in January 2012.

235 Olympic Torch Relay 2012 235

There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services (1) advising of the visit of the Olympic Torch Relay to Inverclyde and (2) proposing arrangements for effective event management.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee approve the arrangements in support of the Olympic Torch Relay visit to Inverclyde as detailed in the report; and

(2) that a budget allocation of £26,000 be approved and that it be remitted to the Project Team to implement the planned delivery.

236 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 236

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment setting out proposals as to how the Council can mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the contents of the report and the arrangements in place to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee;

(2) that it be agreed that the Council host a small ceremony at the Lyle Hill to light the Beacon already located there and that the Chief Executive and Provost be asked to lead the ceremony; and

(3) that it be remitted to the Corporate Communications Manager to publicise the event and official guidance "Your Guide to Taking Part" on the Council's website and through press activity to encourage participation.

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237 Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive: Hydroelectric Schemes: Inverclyde Council 237

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive advising of the use of the powers delegated to him to advertise by Prior Information Notice the holding of a market awareness meeting for the micro hydroelectric schemes approved in principle at the Committee meeting in November 2011.

Noted

238 Corporate EDRM Solution - Request to Proceed to Tender 238

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) seeking approval to proceed to tender for a corporate EDRM solution (EDRMS), the contract for which ends in May 2013, and (2) highlighting how EDRMS underpins a number of the Council's modernisation initiatives.

Decided: that approval be given to the issuing of tenders for a corporate EDRMS contract for an initial period of 5 years with the option to extend for a further 3 years on a year by year basis.

239 Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2012 - 2015 239

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Communities on a remit from the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee of 6 March 2012 requesting the Committee to consider the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2012 - 2015 (the SHIP) which incorporates revised Scottish Government guidance issued to all local authorities in January 2012.

Decided:

(1) that approval be given to the Inverclyde Council Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2012 - 2015 for submission to Scottish Ministers; and

(2) that it be agreed that the Inverclyde Council Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2012 - 2015 be submitted to the Scottish Government prior to 30 March 2012.

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 items on the ground 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)
Care Home Services for Inverclyde	6, 8 and 9
Voluntary Severance Scheme: Update on Employees Released and Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive to Authorise Employee Releases	1

240 Care Home Services for Inverclyde 240

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership on the present position of the joint commissioning exercise between the Council and the NHS for care home services for Inverclyde.

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Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the present position in respect of the engagement process with the preferred bidder and the present position with the joint commissioning exercise; and

(2) that it be noted that the Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health Care Partnership will liaise further as appropriate with the Health Board and will submit a further report to the June 2012 meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at this juncture.

241 Voluntary Severance Scheme: Update on Employees Released and Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive to Authorise Employee Releases**241**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance (1) providing an update on employees released under the Council's Voluntary Severance Scheme and (2) advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to authorise him to release employees under the Scheme.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note that 32 employees have been released under the Council's Voluntary Severance Scheme as detailed in appendix 1 to the report;

(2) that the Committee note the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to extend his delegated authority to release employees under the Scheme; and

(3) that it be noted that a report will be submitted to the Committee providing an update on the release of employees by the Chief Executive under his delegated authority.