

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 20 MAY 2014**

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**Policy & Resources Committee**

**Tuesday 20 May 2014 at 3pm**

**Present:** Provost Moran, Councillors Clocherty, MacLeod, McCabe, McCormick, McEleny, McIlwee, Nelson, Loughran, Rebecchi and Wilson.

**Chair:** Councillor McCabe presided.

**In attendance:** Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Head of Legal & Property Services, Head of Finance, Head of Health Improvement & Commissioning, Service Manager, Health Improvement, Inequalities & Personalisation, Acting Head of Organisational Development, HR & Communications, Head of Education, Mr M McNab (for Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities), Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager, Corporate Procurement Manager, Mr G Simmonds (Education Services) and Mr M Bingham (Corporate Communications).

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

**352      Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest      352**

No apologies for absence were intimated.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 7 (Welfare Reforms Update) - Councillors McCabe, McEleny and McIlwee.

Agenda Item 16 (Queen's Baton Relay and Race 2 the Games) - Councillors Nelson and Wilson.

Additional Agenda Item (Collaborative Contract with Riverside Inverclyde for Consultancy Services) - Councillors Clocherty, McCabe and Wilson.

**353      Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2013/16 – Progress Report      353**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources and the Head of Finance (1) providing an update on the status of the projects forming the Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2013/16 and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.

**Decided:** that the current position of the 2013/16 Capital Programme and the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 be noted.

**354      Capital Programme 2013/16      354**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on the latest position of the 2013/16 Capital Programme.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the current position of the 2013/16 Capital Programme; and

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(2) that it be noted that a detailed report on the 2013/14 out-turn will be submitted to the Committee in August 2014.

**355 Policy & Resources Committee 2013/14 Revenue Budget - Period 11 to 28 February 2014 355**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Head of Finance on the 2013/14 projected out-turn for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 11 (28 February 2014).

**Decided:**

(1) that the 2013/14 projected underspend of £385,000 for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 11 (28 February 2014) be noted; and

(2) that it be noted that the former Bogston Filling Station site is being re-advertised for sale.

**356 General Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14 as at 28 February 2014 356**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) advising the Committee of the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 28 February 2014 and (2) providing an update in respect of the position of the General Fund Reserves and Workstream Savings.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the latest position of the 2013/14 Revenue Budget and General Fund Reserves;

(2) that the 2013/16 Workstream Savings position be noted; and

(3) that it be noted that there is a report elsewhere on the agenda regarding the latest position of the 2015/16 grant settlement.

**357 Procurement Update 357**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on the progress being made with Procurement since the last report in February 2014.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the progress on the Strategic Procurement Framework;

(2) that the progress made in savings delivery be noted;

(3) that the progress being made in paying Inverclyde suppliers within 20 days be noted;

(4) that the summary and comments on the progress of the Procurement Reform Bill be noted; and

(5) that approval be given to the use of a 5% weighting for community benefits in all future tenders above a threshold of £1m, in consultation with the Procurement Manager.

**358 Welfare Reforms Update 358**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources and the Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership providing (1) an update in respect of the Council's response to welfare reform including the 2013/14 out-turn position and the latest position in respect of Discretionary Housing Payments and (2) an update on Financial Inclusion Projects.

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Councillors McCabe, McEleny and McIlwee declared non-financial interests in this item as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes. Each Member 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 approval be given to the revised Discretionary Housing Payment policy set out in Appendix 5 to the report;
- (2) that the Committee otherwise note the report and that a further update will be submitted to the next meeting;
- (3) that the Committee recognise the hard work and commitment of the Discretionary Payments Team in the successful administration of the first year of the Scottish Welfare Fund and the introduction of the social sector size criteria; and
- (4) that it be noted that a report on this matter with specific reference to sanctions and client conditionality will be submitted to the next meeting of the Inverclyde Alliance Board.

**359 Progress in Mainstreaming Equality**

**359**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Education informing the Committee of the progress which the Council has made with regard to meeting its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the information provided which outlines the progress the Council has made towards meeting its legal obligations under equalities legislation; and
- (2) that a briefing and workshop session on equality issues be arranged for Elected Members.

**360 Corporate Performance Report**

**360**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing performance information based on the most recent Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan (CDIP) performance reports which had been considered by the appropriate Service Committees.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the performance information contained in the report be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that further reports on corporate performance will be submitted to future meetings of the Committee; and
- (3) that briefing sessions on future corporate performance reports be arranged for Elected Members.

**361 SOLACE Improving Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2012/13**

**361**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) on the publication of the 2012/13 Local Government Benchmarking Framework data and (2) detailing the improvement actions which have been developed to address, where appropriate, the performance of those indicators which fall within the third and fourth quartiles nationally.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the Improvement Plan for the third and fourth quartile Local Government Benchmarking Framework Indicators, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

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- 362 Annual Review of Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans 2013/16 362**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for those aspects of the Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans which fall within the remit of the Policy & Resources Committee.
- Decided:** that approval be given to the refreshed Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans 2013/16 as set out in the appendices to the report.
- 363 Options Appraisal: are you getting it right? – Accounts Commission Report 363**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) highlighting the main messages arising from the Accounts Commission document “Options Appraisal: are you getting it right?” which was published in March 2014 and (2) seeking the Committee’s approval for any actions proposed.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the issues raised in the Audit Scotland report; and
  - (2) that the Committee note the proposal for the Performance Corporate Improvement Group to take the lead and develop a framework for the improved implementation of Option Appraisal to inform strategic decision making and that this will be the subject of a further report to the Committee.
- 364 Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2014 – Report by the Accounts Commission 364**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) highlighting the key recommendations from the recent Accounts Commission Report “An Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2014” and (2) seeking the Committee’s approval for actions identified by Officers.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the Corporate Management Team’s updates in respect of key priorities for Councillors in 2014 detailed within section 5 of the report and approve the action plan identified in Appendix 2; and
  - (2) that it be agreed that progress in respect of the action plan be reported to the Audit Committee as part of the audit actions update each Committee cycle.
- 365 2015/16 Revenue Grant Settlement – Update 365**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources providing an update in respect of the 2015/16 Government Grant Settlement following further debate and decisions at COSLA.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the report and that a final decision on the Council’s 2015/16 Revenue Grant is awaited from the Scottish Government;

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(2) that the Committee confirm the decision taken at the February 2014 Inverclyde Council that £1.1m of the 2015/16 Revenue Grant be allocated to the School Estate Management Plan;

(3) that it be confirmed that any decision on potential increased grant in 2015/16 over and above the £1.1m be considered as part of the overall 2015/18 Revenue Budget; and

(4) that the Education & Communities Committee be requested to consider a report on the condition and use of the grass park at Gourrock Primary School.

**366 NRS Population Estimates and Migration Assumptions – Implications for Inverclyde 366**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) informing the Committee of recent correspondence with National Registers of Scotland (NRS) on the publication of mid-year population estimates and migration assumptions for Inverclyde, post 2011 Census, and (2) outlining a number of implications for the Council's grant settlement and the current review of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Housing Need and Demand Assessment.

The Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advised the Committee that since the writing of the report, the Chief Executive had received a letter from the National Registers of Scotland advising that there would be no alteration to the migration assumptions and that, as a consequence, Inverclyde was shown as the fastest depopulating area in Scotland for 2012/37 with a 19% population decrease in 25 years resulting in a population of below 66,000.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the revised, re-based NRS 2011 and 2012 mid-year estimates for Inverclyde which better reflect the 2011 Census result and the implications these have specifically in relation to the 2015/16 Needs Based Grant Settlement;

(2) that the Committee note and welcome the assistance of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley (GCV) Strategic Development Planning Authority Core Team and Glasgow City Council on the population and household evidence base for Inverclyde and the joint working currently being undertaken by the GCV Housing Market Partnership on the GCV Housing Need and Demand Assessment (GCV HNDA2);

(3) that it be noted that these matters will be monitored via the Performance Corporate Improvement Group and be reported to the SOA Programme Board and where appropriate the Policy & Resources Committee; and

(4) that in view of the information received regarding the NRS migration assumptions, a report be submitted to the meeting of the Inverclyde Alliance Board on 16 June 2014.

**367 Queen's Baton Relay and "Race 2 the Games" 367**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for funding for the Queen's Baton Relay in Inverclyde and Clyde Muirshiel's Sailability "Race 2 the Games".

Councillors Nelson and Wilson declared non-financial interests in this item as Members of Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee. Each Member 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.

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**Decided:**

- (1) that approval be given to provision of the budget for the Queen's Baton Relay as set out in the report; and
- (2) that approval be given to the sponsorship of "Race 2 the Games" by Inverclyde Council up to £10,000 subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 5.4.

**368 Active Living Strategy****368**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership seeking formal endorsement of the Inverclyde Active Living Strategy set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the content of the report; and
- (2) that the Inverclyde Active Living Strategy set out in the appendix to the report be endorsed.

**369 Craft Employees Assimilation into Local Government Employees (LGE) Terms and Conditions****369**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development recommending that 20 employees currently covered by Crafts Workers' terms and conditions of employment be fully assimilated into the Local Government Employee Terms and Conditions of Employment.

**Decided:**

- (1) that agreement be given to the assimilation of the 20 Craft posts in Environment & Commercial Services into the Local Government Employee Terms and Conditions from 2 June 2014;
- (2) that it be agreed that the costs of withdrawing the Long Service Award be met from the Equal Pay Earmarked Reserves budgeted for by the Council;
- (3) that the costs associated with the changes be met as follows: the initial cost of £6,700 including on-costs to be met from the pay award inflation contingency in 2014/15 and salary increments to 2017 of £20,498 to be contained within the bottom up budgeting exercise; and
- (4) that it be noted that the Building Services Unit (BSU) income earning capacity is reduced and that on the basis set out in the report, the income target for the BSU should be reduced by £26,400 from 2014/15, to be funded from the pay inflation contingency.

**370 Workstream Savings Terms and Conditions****370**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development making recommendations in respect of the Terms and Conditions Workstream Savings.

Following discussion Councillor McCabe moved that the proposals set out in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.4 of the report be approved. As an amendment, Councillor McEleny moved that any existing Council employees moving post within the organisation be not required to pay for a Disclosure Scotland check. On a vote 3 Members voted for the amendment and 8 for the motion which was declared carried.

**Decided:** that the proposals set out in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.4 of the report be approved.

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- 371 Contract Awards – 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 371**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) advising the Committee of contracts awarded for the supply of goods and materials, provision of services and execution of works during the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 and (2) seeking approval for the submission of reports on contract awards to the Committee on a six monthly basis.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the contracts awarded by the Council during the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014; and
- (2) that six monthly reports on contract awards be submitted to the Committee by the Head of Legal & Property Services.
- 372 Kerbside Glass Collection Service - Update: Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee 372**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources requesting the Committee to consider a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 1 May 2014 relative to funding for the Kerbside Glass Collection Service.
- Decided:** that it be agreed to return the £24,000 budget not required due to the delay in implementing kerbside glass recycling to the Contingency Earmarked Reserve for future re-allocation.
- 373 Gourock Pier and Railhead Development - Progress Report: Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee 373**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources requesting the Committee to consider a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 1 May 2014 relative to the development of the Gourock Pier and Railhead development area and proposals in relation to land purchases and leases.
- Decided:** that additional maintenance obligations of approximately £10,000 per year arising from the development be funded from the Revenue implications of the Capital Programme allowance.
- The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to consider whether it would wish to participate in a collaborative procurement exercise with Riverside Inverclyde at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.**
- 374 Collaborative Contract with Riverside Inverclyde for Consultancy Services 374**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources requesting the Committee's approval to participate in the collaborative procurement exercise with Riverside Inverclyde for Consultancy Services.

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Councillors Clocherty, McCabe and Wilson declared non-financial interests in this item as Members of the Board of Riverside Inverclyde. Each Member 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:** that approval be given to the request to take part in a collaborative procurement exercise for Consultancy Services with Riverside Inverclyde as provided for in Order 12.1 of the Standing Orders relating to Contracts.

**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:-**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph(s)</b>
<b>Appendices relative to Agenda Item 22</b>	<b>6 and 9</b>
<b>Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive: Pension Access</b>	<b>1</b>

**375 Appendices relative to Agenda Item 22 375**

There were submitted appendices relative to Agenda Item 22 (Gourock Pier and Railhead Development - Progress Report: Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee) providing details of proposals relating to land purchase.

**Noted**

**376 Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive: Pension Access 376**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to allow release of an employee with access to their pension.

**Noted**