

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 30 September 2014 at 3pm

Present: Provost Moran, Councillors Clocherty, Brooks (for MacLeod), McCabe, McCormick, McEleny, Brennan (for McIlwee), Nelson, Loughran, Rebecchi and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Property Services, Head of Finance, Head of Organisational Development, HR & Communications and Corporate Communications Manager.

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

574 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McIlwee, with Councillor Brennan substituting, and Councillor MacLeod with Councillor Brooks substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

575 2015/18 Budget Strategy

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There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking approval for the proposed Budget Strategy covering the period 2015/18.

After discussion, Councillor McEleny moved:-

(1) that the Committee approve the 2015/18 Budget Strategy as outlined in Section 5 of the report;

(2) that the £950,000 Directorate Savings for 2015/16 detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be approved with the exception of savings proposal ECOD ES14/04 £20,000 (supported study) and that any savings implications arising from this be met from the present surplus and be deferred for consideration of the Council's budget for 2016/17 and onwards; and

(3) that approval be given to the creation of a £150,000 Budget Development Earmarked Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.1 of the report.

As an amendment to (2) above, Councillor McCabe moved that the £950,000 Directorate Savings for 2015/16 detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be approved and that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Education & Communities Committee regarding the proposed £20,000 supported study saving, providing options to achieve the saving including the supported study budget.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

Councillor McCabe also moved that, in the light of the significant budget challenges facing the Council and the community, arrangements be made for an early meeting of the Strategic Leadership Forum to discuss how to work together to develop the budget for 2015/18 and that Councillors Wilson, Ahlfeld and Jones be invited to attend and participate in the meeting. This was agreed unanimously.

On a vote, 3 Members voted for the motion and 8 for the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the 2015/18 Budget Strategy as outlined in Section 5 of the report;
- (2) that the £950,000 Directorate Savings for 2015/16 detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be approved and that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Education & Communities Committee regarding the proposed £20,000 supported study saving, providing options to achieve the saving including the supported study budget;
- (3) that approval be given to the creation of a £150,000 Budget Development Earmarked Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.1 of the report; and
- (4) that, in the light of the significant budget challenges facing the Council and the community, arrangements be made for an early meeting of the Strategic Leadership Forum to discuss how to work together to develop the budget for 2015/18 and that Councillors Wilson, Ahlfeld and Jones be invited to attend and participate in the meeting.

576 Budget Consultation and Communication Plan

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to agree the consultation and communication plan for the budget proposals for 2015/17 as part of the 2015/18 Budget Strategy.

The Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advised the Committee that the text at paragraph 6.1 relating to financial implications was incorrect and that the proposed spend was £13,000 as detailed in the table.

After discussion, Councillor McEleny moved that the Committee approve (a) the consultation objectives, audiences, key mechanisms and timescales outlined in the report; (b) the timescales for undertaking the consultation contained within Appendix 1 of the report; and (c) the consultation and community presentations being conducted on a non-political basis by Council Officers.

As an amendment, Councillor Wilson moved that the Committee not approve the recommendations set out in the report.

As a further amendment, Councillor McCabe moved:-

- (1) that the Committee approve (a) the consultation objectives, audiences, key mechanisms and timescales outlined in the report; (b) the timescales for undertaking the consultation contained within Appendix 1 of the report; (c) the consultation and community presentations being conducted on a non-political basis by Council Officers with any Elected Members attending such presentations not participating in discussion; and
- (2) that a meeting with the local MP and MSPs on the scale of the challenges faced by and the pressures on the Council be arranged in early course and that the Strategic Leadership Forum, including Councillors Wilson, Ahlfeld and Jones, agree the Council's representation at the meeting on a cross party basis.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

On a vote between the two amendments, 1 Member voted for the amendment by Councillor Wilson and 7 for the amendment by Councillor McCabe. The amendment by Councillor Wilson then fell. On a vote between the amendment by Councillor McCabe and the motion, 3 Members voted for the motion and 7 for the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve:-
 - (a) the consultation objectives, audiences, key mechanisms and timescales outlined in the report;
 - (b) the timescales for undertaking the consultation contained within Appendix 1 of the report; and
 - (c) the consultation and community presentations being conducted on a non-political basis by Council Officers with any Elected Members attending such presentations not participating in discussion; and
- (2) that a meeting with the local MP and MSPs on the scale of the challenges faced by and the pressures on the Council be arranged in early course and that the Strategic Leadership Forum, including Councillors Wilson, Ahlfeld and Jones, agree the Council's representation at the meeting on a cross party basis.