

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2015

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, Campbell-Sturgess (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, Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Property Services, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Manager, Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Acting Head of Education, Service Manager Health Improvement, Inequalities and Personalisation, Mr D Robinson (Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership) and Corporate Communications Manager.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener referred to the forthcoming retiral of Robert Stoakes, Interim Head of ICT, and, on behalf of the Committee, extended his appreciation to Mr Stoakes for his contribution to the Council and conveyed his best wishes to him for a long and happy retirement.

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

223 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

223

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

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 16 (Mileage Allowance Payments (MAPs) for Teachers) – Councillor McCabe.

Agenda Item 18 (Grand Central Savings) – Councillors Ahlfeld, McCabe, McEleny and Campbell-Sturgess.

Agenda Item 19 (Scottish Charity Regulator Report – Arm's Length External Organisations) – Councillors Ahlfeld, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, McCabe and Wilson.

224 Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2014/18 - Progress Report

224

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) providing an update on the status of the projects within the Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2014/18 and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.

Decided: that the Committee note the current position of the 2014/18 Capital Programme and the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1.

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- 225 2014/18 Capital Programme 225**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the 2014/18 Capital Programme.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the initial position of the 2014/18 Capital Programme; and
- (2) that the Committee note the current projected level of capital slippage in 2014/15.
- 226 Policy & Resources Committee 2014/15 Revenue Budget – Period 10 to 31 January 2015 226**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Chief Financial Officer on the 2014/15 projected outturn for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 10 to 31 January 2015.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the 2014/15 projected underspend of £2,038,000 for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 10 to 31 January 2015; and
- (2) that the Committee note the projected fund balance of £90,490 for the Common Good Fund.
- 227 2014/15 General Fund Revenue Budget as at 31 January 2015 227**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 31 January 2015 and (2) providing an update in respect of the position of the General Fund Reserves, Earmarked Reserves and Workstream Savings.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the latest position of the 2014/15 Revenue Budget and General Fund Reserves;
- (2) that the Committee note that 100% of the 2014/15 Workstream Savings have been delivered; and
- (3) that the Committee note the increase in General Fund Reserves arising since the 19 February 2015 budget meeting and agree that the utilisation of any surplus reserves be considered by the Members' Budget Working Group during 2015/16 in the context of the remaining 2016/17 savings target.
- 228 Corporate Performance Report 228**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy on the achievement of key objectives by the Council's Corporate Services as detailed in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2013/16 and the Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2013/16.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the performance information outlined in the report; and
- (2) that it be agreed to consider the fifth progress report at the first meeting of the Committee following the summer 2015 recess.

229 SOLACE Improving Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2013/14 229

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing details of the publication of the 2013/14 Local Government Benchmarking Framework data and in particular highlighting Inverclyde Council's performance across the range of benchmarking indicators.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note that the Local Government Benchmarking Framework data for 2013/14 was published on 30 January 2015;
- (2) that approval be given to the action plan for the Corporate Management Team as set out in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (3) that it be agreed that the service commentary be used to form the basis of the Council's public performance reporting on the Local Government Benchmarking Framework.

230 Welfare Reforms Update 230

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health and Care Partnership providing an update in respect of various aspects of the Welfare Reform agenda.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the latest position in respect of Welfare Reforms and the actions being taken by officers;
- (2) that approval be given to the request to vire £140,000 from Crisis Grants to Community Care Grants;
- (3) that the existing Non-SSSC Discretionary Housing Payment Policy be maintained with funding remaining at 2014/15 levels and that the difference of £24,000 be funded from Welfare Reforms Earmarked Reserves; and
- (4) that the position be reviewed as part of the 2016/17 budget process.

231 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16 – 2017/18 231

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/18, 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 following, as outlined in the report, be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval:-
 - (a) Treasury Management Strategy;
 - (b) Annual Investment Strategy;
 - (c) Treasury Policy Limits;
 - (d) Prudential Indicators;
 - (e) Treasury Management Indicators;
 - (f) List of Permitted Investments (including those for the Common Good Fund); and
- (2) that the Committee note the effect of banking changes and ongoing reviews of legislation on lending by the Council to other external bodies, as outlined in sections 5.40 to 5.44 of the report.

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- 232 Corporate Charging Policy 232**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the action plan previously agreed by the Committee on 4 February 2014 and (2) seeking approval of the Corporate Charging Policy for Inverclyde Council.
- Decided:**
- (1) that approval be given to the Charging Policy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
 - (2) that the progress against the actions previously agreed on 4 February 2014 be noted.
- 233 Information Governance and Management Update 233**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health and Care Partnership on the current position with regard to the Information Governance and Management Framework.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the progress of and momentum regained on the Information Governance and Management Framework;
 - (2) that the Committee note that Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde Licensing Board will submit their Records Management Plan by 30 June 2015; and
 - (3) that it be agreed that a progress report be submitted to the Committee later in the year.
- 234 Equality Mainstreaming Report and Progress against Equality Outcomes 234**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending a summary of the Council's statutory reporting requirements under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee endorse the publication of the information contained in the report; and
 - (2) that a further report and action plan be submitted to the Committee in early course.
- 235 Audit Scotland Report: Community Planning – Turning Ambition into Action 235**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing a summary of the Audit Scotland Report, 'Community Planning – Turning Ambition into Action', published in November 2014. (Councillor Wilson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the key messages and recommendations made by Audit Scotland; and
 - (2) that agreement be given to support the delivery of the actions set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

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- 236 Update – Audit Scotland Report: Major Capital Investment in Councils 236**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services providing an update on the action plan progress in respect of the Audit Scotland report on Major Capital Investment in Councils dated March 2013.
- Decided:** that the Committee note that the action plan will be monitored as part of the regular External Audit Action Plan follow-up report to the Audit Committee.
- 237 Records Management Policy 237**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health and Care Partnership seeking approval of the Records Management Policy appended to the report.
- Decided:**
- (1) that approval be given to the Records Management Policy appended to the report; and
 - (2) that progress on implementation of the policy be reported to a future Committee and also on an annual basis.
- 238 Mileage Allowance Payments (MAPs) for Teachers 238**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications recommending a change to teachers' mileage allowance rates to reflect the rates promoted by HMRC which apply to all other employees. Councillor McCabe declared a non-financial interest in this item as the relative of an affected employee. 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.
- Decided:** that it be agreed that mileage claims for teachers be paid at approved HMRC rates with effect from 1 April 2015 at the current rates of 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25p per mile after 10,000 miles.
- Councillor Wilson returned to the meeting at this juncture.
- 239 Scottish Charity Regulator Report – Arm's Length External Organisations 239**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on a recent paper issued by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) regarding a study which it had carried out in respect of Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs) and (2) seeking approval for the proposed action plan in this regard.
- Councillors Clocherty, McCabe and Wilson declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of Riverside Inverclyde and Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty and Campbell-Sturgess declared a non-financial interest as Members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. All of the Members 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 content of the report by OSCR; and
 - (2) that approval be given to the proposed actions as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

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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)
Former Tied Housing Employees	1, 11 and 12
Grand Central Savings	6

240 Former Tied Housing Employees 240

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications (1) providing an update on the formal consultation period with the trade unions in relation to the implementation of revised rent arrangements for employees in former tied houses and (2) outlining the potential next steps for consideration.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the positive discussions which have taken place with the trade unions;
- (2) that it be agreed to extend the formal period of consultation with the trade unions to 30 April 2015 during which time officers will negotiate and consult in an endeavour to reach an agreement; and
- (3) that a report on the outcome of the consultation process be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 19 May 2015.

241 Grand Central Savings 241

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership on the current position in respect of Grand Central Savings. Councillors Ahlfeld, McCabe and McEleny declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes and Councillor Campbell-Sturgess declared a non-financial interest due to a personal relationship with an account holder. All of the Members 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.

The Committee agreed to take action, all as detailed in the appendix.