

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 16 FEBRUARY 2017

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 16 February 2017 at 4pm

Present: Provost Moran, Councillors Ahlfeld, Brennan, Brooks, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Dorrian, Jones, Loughran, MacLeod, McCabe, McColgan, McCormick, McEleny, McIlwee, Nelson, Rebecchi, Shepherd and Wilson.

Chair: Provost Moran presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Chief Financial Officer, Mr C Given, Ms A Edmiston and Ms M McCabe (Finance Services), Head of Environmental & Commercial Services, Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications, Corporate Communications Manager and Mr M Bingham (Corporate Communications).

In attendance also: Mr T Yule, Audit Scotland.

95 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 95

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Grieve.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

**Minutes of Meetings of
The Inverclyde Council, Committees, Sub-Committees and Boards**

96 The Inverclyde Council – 1 December 2016 96

Approved on the motion of Provost Moran.

97 General Purposes Board – 14 December 2016 97

Approved on the motion of Councillor Brennan.

98 Health & Social Care Committee – 5 January 2017 98

Approved on the motion of Councillor McIlwee.

99 Audit Committee – 10 January 2017 99

Approved on the motion of Councillor Rebecchi.

100 General Purposes Board – 11 January 2017 100

Approved on the motion of Councillor Dorrian.

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| 101 | Environment & Regeneration Committee – 12 January 2017 | 101 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick. | |
| 102 | Education & Communities Committee – 17 January 2017 | 102 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor Loughran. | |
| 103 | Human Resources Appeals Board – 19 January 2017 | 103 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty. | |
| 104 | Education & Communities Committee (Special) – 23 January 2017 | 104 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor Loughran. | |
| 105 | Policy & Resources Committee – 31 January 2017 | 105 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe. | |
| 106 | Local Review Body – 1 February 2017 | 106 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson. | |
| 107 | General Purposes Board – 8 February 2017 | 107 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor Dorrian. | |
| 108 | Appointment Panel – Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership – 10 February 2017 | 108 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty. | |
| 109 | Inverclyde Council Budget 2017/18 | 109 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer, together with amended appendices circulated separately, providing the necessary information to allow the Council to approve a balanced 2017/18 Budget, a 2017/20 Capital Programme, the 2017/18 Common Good Budget and the Band D Council Tax for the financial year 2017/18.</p> <p>Following discussion, Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Clocherty moved that the Council approve the recommendations from the Members' Budget Working Group:</p> <p>(1) that the Council not reject the conditions as set out in the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution dated 15 December 2016;</p> <p>(2) that the Council approve that the payment from the Council to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) in 2017/18 be £47.380 million after taking into account the extra funding allocated to the IJB via the Health Budget;</p> <p>(3) that the Council approve the £59,000 reduction in the Inverclyde Leisure (IL) Management Fee due to IL withdrawing from the Service Level Agreement with the Council's HR service;</p> | |

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- (4) that the Council approve the 2017/19 Budget adjustments and allowances in Appendix 3 and agree that the resulting deficit in 2017/18 will be funded from Reserves in line with the approved Budget Strategy;
- (5) that the Council approve the use of Free Reserves as detailed in Appendix 5 and note the advice from the Chief Financial Officer in Section 13 regarding the use of Reserves to fund the Revenue Budget deficit;
- (6) that the Council approve the 2017/18 Common Good Budget as set out in Appendix 6;
- (7) that the Council approve the 2017/20 Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 7;
- (8) that the Council note the potential significant reductions in Council services over the medium term;
- (9) that the Council support the retention of current rates paid to apprentices as set out in paragraph 13.3; and
- (10) that the Council note the feedback from the Budget Consultation outlined in Appendix 9 and that this information will be used to inform the development of future budget savings.

As an amendment, Councillor McEleny seconded by Councillor MacLeod moved:

- (1) that the Council notes the concerns the SNP Group have raised regarding the very high volume of equal pay claims that have still not been settled. The Council notes that in November of 2016 it was stated that these claims – numbering in the region of 800 – would be settled ‘imminently’. Furthermore the Council notes that a very large volume of Inverclyde Council employees have highlighted their cases to elected members but their claims have not been recognised by the Council despite the fact that colleagues in a similar position have had their claims duly recognised;
- (2) that the Council notes that the SNP Group made the offer to support this year’s budget if there was a willingness to change the Council’s position and form a new robust policy that would allow all women deemed to have equal pay claims to make them. Additionally, extra resources were requested to facilitate current claims being settled in a timeous manner as well as setting aside substantial additional resources to fund future potential claims that a policy change would result in;
- (3) that the Council therefore approves recommendations 3.1.1 to 3.1.11, excluding 3.1.5; and
- (4) that in regard to recommendation 3.1.5, the Council notes that there is an election in just over 2 months’ time at which political parties and individuals across Inverclyde will put forward their own proposals for the future of Inverclyde and that the Council believes that the democratic mandate of this Council to set substantial political spending priorities is on the cusp of expiry.

As at least one quarter of the Members present required a roll-call vote, the vote was taken by calling the roll.

Councillors Brooks, Campbell-Sturgess, MacLeod, McEleny and Nelson voted for the amendment and Provost Moran, Councillors Ahlfeld, Brennan, Clocherty, Dorrian, Jones, Loughran, McCabe, McColgan, McCormick, McIlwee, Rebecchi, Shepherd and Wilson voted for the motion which was declared carried.

Decided: that the Council approve the recommendations from the Members’ Budget Working Group:

- (1) that the Council not reject the conditions as set out in the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution dated 15 December 2016;
- (2) that the Council approve that the payment from the Council to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) in 2017/18 be £47.380 million after taking into account the extra funding allocated to the IJB via the Health Budget;

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- (3) that the Council approve the £59,000 reduction in the Inverclyde Leisure (IL) Management Fee due to IL withdrawing from the Service Level Agreement with the Council's HR service;
- (4) that the Council approve the 2017/19 Budget adjustments and allowances in Appendix 3 and agree that the resulting deficit in 2017/18 will be funded from Reserves in line with the approved Budget Strategy;
- (5) that the Council approve the use of Free Reserves as detailed in Appendix 5 and note the advice from the Chief Financial Officer in Section 13 regarding the use of Reserves to fund the Revenue Budget deficit;
- (6) that the Council approve the 2017/18 Common Good Budget as set out in Appendix 6;
- (7) that the Council approve the 2017/20 Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 7;
- (8) that the Council note the potential significant reductions in Council services over the medium term;
- (9) that the Council support the retention of current rates paid to apprentices as set out in paragraph 13.3; and
- (10) that the Council note the feedback from the Budget Consultation outlined in Appendix 9 and that this information will be used to inform the development of future budget savings.

110 Resolution: Council Tax 2017/18 110

Arising from the foregoing paragraph, Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Clocherty moved that the Council impose no increase in the Council Tax for financial year 2017/18 and accordingly resolve to set the Band D Council Tax at £1,198.

Decided: that the Band D Council Tax for 2017/18 be set at £1,198.

Councillor Campbell-Sturgess left the meeting at this juncture.

111 Local Review Body: Vice-Chair – Request by Councillor Wilson 111

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a request by Councillor Wilson that the Council appoint a Vice-Chair of the Local Review Body.

Decided: that the Council establish the post of Vice-Chair of the Local Review Body for its remaining meetings during the term of the current Council and that Councillor Nelson be appointed to the position.

112 Disasters Emergency Committee in Scotland: Yemen Crisis Appeal – Request by Councillor McCabe 112

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a request received from Councillor McCabe that the Council consider supporting the Disasters Emergency Appeal (DEC) in Scotland: Yemen Crisis Appeal by means of financial donation and promotional activity.

Decided: that the Council agree to make a donation of £10,000 to the DEC Yemen Crisis Appeal, to be funded from the Contingencies Fund.

113 WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) Campaign – Request by Councillor McCabe 113

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a request received from Councillor McCabe that the Council support the WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) Campaign by agreeing the following motion:

“The Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6 April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

Hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little/no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six year increase to their state pension age.

Many women born in the 1950s are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute – it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women’s state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

The Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6 April 1951, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.”

Decided: that the Council support the motion as detailed above.

114 Local Government Elections 2017: Review of Polling Scheme 114

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services requesting the Council to approve its Polling Scheme for the purposes of the Local Government elections in May 2017 following upon the public consultation exercise carried out in the light of necessary changes.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council approve the Polling Scheme attached as Appendix 1 for the purposes of an interim review;
- (2) that it be remitted to the Head of Legal & Property Services in consultation with the Corporate Communications Manager to continue to ensure community awareness of the Polling Scheme by all suitable means; and
- (3) that authority continue to be delegated to the Chief Executive as Returning Officer for the Local Government elections to modify the approved Polling Scheme as may be necessary in situations of need and also to make any alternative or emergency arrangements as may be necessary in the interests of voters.

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115	Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – Disabled Persons’ Parking Places (On-Street) Order No. 4 2016 – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee	115
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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 12 January 2017 requesting approval of the Traffic Regulation Order – The Inverclyde Council, Disabled Persons’ Parking Places (On-Street) Order No. 4 2016.

Decided: that the Inverclyde Council approve the making of the Traffic Regulation Order – The Inverclyde Council, Disabled Persons’ Parking Places (On-Street) Order No. 4 2016 and that the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services and the Head of Legal & Property Services be authorised to take all necessary action in connection therewith.

116	Watt Complex Closure – Alternative Service Provision – Remit from Education & Communities Committee	116
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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Education & Communities Committee of 17 January 2017 requesting the Council, as Trustees of the Watt Institution, to note the decision made by that Committee relative to alternative service provision in connection with the Watt Complex closure.

Decided: that the Council, as Trustees of the Watt Institution, note the decision of the Education & Communities Committee relative to the alternative service provision in connection with the Watt Complex closure.

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 for the following item on the grounds that it contained exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act, as detailed in the relevant minute.

Appendices to Minutes

117	Environment & Regeneration Committee – 12 January 2017	117
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Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.

118	Education & Communities Committee – 17 January 2017	118
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Approved on the motion of Councillor Loughran.

119	Human Resources Appeals Board – 19 January 2017	119
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Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.

120	General Purposes Board – 8 February 2017	120
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Approved on the motion of Councillor Dorrian.

121 **Appointment Panel – Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership – 10 February 2017** 121

Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.