

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8 AUGUST 2017

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 8 August 2017 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, MacLeod, McCabe, McCormick, C McEleny, McVey, Moran, Rebecchi, Robertson and Brooks (for Wilson).

Chair: Councillor McCabe 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 R McGhee (Legal & Property Services), Chief Financial Officer, Social Care Finance Manager, Education & Exchequer Finance Manager, Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications, HR Manager (Operations), Acting Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Corporate Procurement Manager and Corporate Communications Manager.

In attendance also: Mr T Yule (Audit Scotland).

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

403 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 403

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson, with Councillor Brooks substituting.

Councillors Ahlfeld, Brooks, Clocherty and C McEleny declared an interest in agenda item 8 (Extension of Opening of Gourrock Outdoor Pool).

404 Workforce Information and Activity Report (WIAR) 2016/2017 404

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications on key workforce information and activity for the year 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, including key information on attendance, performance and workforce demographics.

The Committee heard a presentation by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications who then answered a number of questions from Members.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the content of the Workforce Information and Activity Report for 2016/2017 outlined in appendix 1; and
- (2) that Workforce Information and Activity Reports be provided to the Policy & Resources Committee on an annual basis.

405 2016/17 Capital Programme Performance 405

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer advising the Committee on the performance in respect of the delivery of the 2016/17 Capital Programme.

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Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the 2016/17 Capital outturn position of 9.2% acceleration; and
- (2) that the Committee note the positive impact of the previously agreed actions on slippage levels in 2016/17.

406 Revenue Budget Outturn 2016/17 - Unaudited**406**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the unaudited outturn of Service Committee budgets for the year ending 31 March 2017 and (2) highlighting any significant variances between revised budgets, provisional outturn and outturn as set out in the 2016/17 unaudited accounts.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the underspend as set out in the unaudited accounts for 2016/17 of £2,243,000, the reasons for the material variances from budgets and the 0.12% movement from provisional outturn to final outturn; and
- (2) that the Committee note that officers will identify any opportunities to adjust budgets from 2018/20 and include proposals in future budget reports.

407 Fair Trade – Proposed Investment in Ethical Investment Organisation**407**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval to make an investment of up to £50,000 in the Shared Interest Society Ltd (“Shared Interest”), a company that uses funds invested by individuals and organisations to allow it to provide loans to fair trade businesses around the world.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee:
 - (a) approve the placing of up to £50,000 of investment balances with Shared Interest Society Ltd and the waiving of interest receivable on those funds;
 - (b) note the governance issues relating to Shared Interest as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report;
 - (c) note the risk to the funds as set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report;
 - (d) approve the addition of Shared Interest and its activities to the promotional activities undertaken by the Council in support of fair trade, through the schools and the wider community; and
- (2) that updates on the work of Shared Interest form part of an annual report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on fair trade to the Inverclyde Council.

408 A Severance Policy for Scotland – Consultation on Severance Arrangements Across the Devolved Public Sector**408**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications on a response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on severance arrangements across the public sector, which closed on 23 June 2017.

Decided: that the Committee note the Council’s response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on severance arrangements across the public sector, as outlined in appendix 1 to the report.

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- 409 Use of Emergency Powers - Improvement Service Collaborative Framework for Associates 409**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advising of the use of the emergency powers procedure to participate in a framework for professional services using a collaborative procurement approach with the Improvement Service.
- Decided:** that the use of the emergency powers procedure be noted.
- 410 Extension of Opening of Gourock Outdoor Pool 410**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to support extended opening of Gourock Outdoor Pool through to the end of September and seeking approval to fund this on a one year trial basis.
- Councillors Ahlfeld, Brooks and Clocherty declared a non-financial interest in this matter as Board Members of Inverclyde Leisure. Councillor C McEleny declared a non-financial interest in the matter as a frequent user of the facility. All 4 Councillors formed the view that the nature of their interests 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 approval be given to the deficit funding of the opening of Gourock Outdoor Pool for the month of September on a one-off trial basis; and
 - (2) that approval be given to the use of a proportion of the earmarked reserve for activities at Rankin Park to fund the extension.
- 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 item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6, 11 and 12 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**
- 411 Equal Pay Update 411**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications updating the Committee on the current position in relation to equal pay claims against the Council.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the current position in relation to equal pay claims against the Council.