

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2017**

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**The Inverclyde Council**

**Thursday 28 September 2017 at 4pm**

**Present:** Provost Brennan, Councillors Ahlfeld, Brooks, Crowther, Curley, Dorrian, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, C McEleny, J McEleny, McKenzie, McVey, Moran, Murphy, Nelson, Quinn, Rebecchi, Robertson and Wilson.

**Chair:** Provost Brennan presided.

**In attendance:** Chief Executive, Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Chief Financial Officer, Finance Manager (Environment & Technical), Finance Manager (Education & Exchequer), Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications, Acting Head of Environmental & Commercial Services and Corporate Communications Manager.

**In attendance also:** Mr D Jamieson and Mr T Yule, Audit Scotland.

**512      Apologies and Declarations of Interest      512**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Clocherty and MacLeod.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

**513      Annual Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2017      513**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (1) presenting the Annual Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit for the financial year to 31 March 2017 and (2) presenting, for Elected Members as Trustees of the Lady Alice Shaw-Stewart Memorial Trust, the Trust's Annual Report and Accounts for approval.

Mr David Jamieson and Mr Tommy Yule of Audit Scotland were present and spoke to the Reports.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Council endorse the contents of the Annual Report to Members and the Controller of Audit for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 and approve the Action Plan in Appendix 1 of the Annual Report;

(2) that the Council endorse the Annual Accounts for Inverclyde Council for the financial year 2016/17 and grant approval for the signing of the Accounts by the Council Leader, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer;

(3) that the Council endorse the Letter of Representation in Appendix 3 and approve the signing of this by the Chief Financial Officer;

(4) that the Members of the Council, as Trustees, endorse the contents of the Annual Report for the Lady Alice Shaw-Stewart Memorial Fund and grant approval for the signing of the Accounts by the current and former Provost and the Chief Financial Officer; and

(5) that the Members of the Council, as Trustees, endorse the Letter of Representation in Appendix 6 and approve the signing of this by the Chief Financial

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Officer.

The Council then adjourned at 4.15pm to allow for the signing of the various documents in connection with the previous item and re-convened at 4.25pm.

Prior to the commencement of the remaining business, Councillor C McEleny paid a tribute following the recent death of former Councillor Jim Grieve. Thereafter the Council observed a minute's silence.

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

<b>514</b>	<b>Local Police &amp; Fire Scrutiny Sub-Committee – 29 June 2017</b>	<b>514</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Provost Brennan.	
<b>515</b>	<b>The Inverclyde Council – 29 June 2017</b>	<b>515</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Provost Brennan.	
<b>516</b>	<b>General Purposes Board (Special) – 26 July 2017</b>	<b>516</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Dorrian.	
<b>517</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee – 8 August 2017</b>	<b>517</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McCabe.	
<b>518</b>	<b>General Purposes Board – 9 August 2017</b>	<b>518</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Dorrian.	
<b>519</b>	<b>Audit Committee – 22 August 2017</b>	<b>519</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Rebecchi.	
<b>520</b>	<b>Health &amp; Social Care Committee – 24 August 2017</b>	<b>520</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
<b>521</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee – 31 August 2017</b>	<b>521</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	
<b>522</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communities Committee – 5 September 2017</b>	<b>522</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Murphy.	

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- 523 Planning Board – 6 September 2017** **523**  
**Approved** on the motion of Councillor Wilson.
- 524 Local Review Body – 6 September 2017** **524**  
**Approved** on the motion of Councillor Wilson.
- 525 General Purposes Board – 13 September 2017** **525**  
**Approved** on the motion of Councillor Dorrian.
- 526 Policy & Resources Committee – 19 September 2017** **526**  
**Approved** on the motion of Councillor McCabe.
- 527 2018/20 Revenue Budget Update** **527**  
 There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update regarding progress with the 2018/20 Revenue Budget and (2) outlining the next steps in the process.  
**Decided:**  
 (1) that the Council note the revised 2018/20 funding gap assessment prepared by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Management Team and the potential risk for a further savings exercise to take place in 2019 in the event that the funding gap is greater than the £13m outlined in Appendix 1;  
 (2) that the Council approve the proposals in Appendix 2 to be included in the public consultation on the 2018/20 Revenue Budget and note that the proposals in Appendix 3 will be reported to the relevant Committee before March 2018;  
 (3) that the Council approve the adjustments in Appendix 4 and that these adjustments be applied to the 2018/20 Budget;  
 (4) that the Council note the next stages of the 2018/20 Revenue Budget process and agree that a special meeting of the Council take place on Thursday 21 December 2017 at 4pm to approve the final public consultation proposals and consider the latest position in respect of the 2018/20 Revenue Budget; and  
 (5) that the Council note that the next report on the agenda covers the public consultation proposals.
- 528 Budget Consultation – Communications and Engagement** **528**  
 There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications on proposals regarding communications and engagement on the Council's 2018/20 Budget.  
**Decided:** that the Council note the consultation, communications and engagement, objectives, audiences and key mechanisms outlined in the report, the timetable for consultation and the potential release of employees outlined in Appendix 1.
- 529 Motion by Inverclyde Joint Trade Unions – Request by Councillors McCabe and Clocherty** **529**  
 There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration &

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Resources on a request received from Councillors McCabe and Clocherty that consideration be given to a motion from Inverclyde Joint Trade Unions as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

During the course of discussion on the item, an addendum to the motion was accepted by the mover and seconder of the motion.

Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Jackson moved the following:

“Inverclyde Council has had to manage significant budget pressures for over a decade. Each year over that period the budget settlement for Inverclyde Council has reduced in real terms. Successive Governments at both a UK and Scottish level have presided over the funding regime during this period.

The Council has adopted different approaches to deal with this problem. On the one hand it has made efficiency savings which have eased budget gaps by increasing income or reducing spending but without any impact on services. On the other hand, and to a lesser extent, it has reduced or withdrawn services.

Moving forward, both the Council and the Trades Unions recognise that there is less and less scope for further efficiency savings. Further reductions in the settlement grant will inevitably lead to services being reduced or withdrawn. This will in turn impact on the most vulnerable people in our communities.

This Council and Trades Unions believe that austerity as a political and economic strategy is completely discredited and has inflicted untold damage on our workforce, public services and our communities.

This Council and Trades Unions resolve to:

- publicly and consistently advocate for a fair Local Government settlement.
- persuade Governments to make money available to ensure that vital services for Inverclyde residents are maintained at the level required for communities that are amongst the poorest in Scotland.
- work jointly in campaigns at all levels of Government against austerity and the impact of austerity on Local Government services.
- invite the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Scotland to Inverclyde to visit the vital Council services that are under threat due to continued UK government austerity.”

As an amendment, Councillor Brooks seconded by Councillor Wilson moved the following motion:

“Inverclyde Council has had to manage significant budget pressures for over a decade. Each year over that period the budget settlement for Inverclyde Council has reduced in real terms. Successive Governments at both a UK and Scottish level have presided over the funding regime during this period.

The Council has adopted different approaches to deal with this challenge. On the one hand it has made efficiency savings which have eased budget gaps by increasing income or reducing spending but without any impact on service. On the other hand, and to a lesser extent, it has reduced or withdrawn services.

Moving forward, the Council recognises that there is less and less scope for further efficiency savings. Further reductions in the settlement grant will inevitably lead to services being reduced or withdrawn from our communities.

This Council believes that economic recovery and reducing the budget deficit should remain key priorities for our Governments as the accumulation of public sector debt is unsustainable. We welcome the reduction of UK net borrowing (% of GDP) from 9.9% 2009/10 to 2.3% 2016/17.

If the budget deficit is not brought under control, we fear the loss of employment and the reduction in vital public services, like the NHS, will have a greater impact on the most vulnerable people in our communities.

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This Council resolves to:

- Publicly and consistently advocate for a fair Local Government settlement.
- Persuade Governments to make resources available to ensure that vital services for Inverclyde residents are maintained at the level required for our communities that are amongst the most resilient in Scotland.
- Work jointly in campaigns at all levels of Government to improve the employment rate of 75.3%, the highest since comparable records began in 1971.”

As a further amendment, Councillor McVey seconded by Councillor Quinn moved the following motion:

“This Council believes that the matter of addressing the serious budget cuts should transcend party politics.

We believe that all Elected Members should work together in order to protect front line services and offer the best care for the most vulnerable in our community.

In addition, this Council believes that all Elected Members should work in such a manner as to alleviate the risk of compulsory redundancies.”

On a vote between the two amendments, 2 Members, Councillors Brooks and Wilson, voted in favour of their amendment and 4 Members, Councillors Ahlfeld, McKenzie, McVey and Quinn voted in favour of the amendment by Councillor McVey seconded by Councillor Quinn. 14 Members, Provost Brennan, Councillors Dorrian, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, Moran, Murphy, Rebecchi, Crowther, Curley, C McEleny, J McEleny, Nelson and Robertson abstained from voting. The amendment by Councillor Brooks, having received fewer votes, then fell.

On a vote between the motion and the amendment by Councillor McVey seconded by Councillor Quinn, 4 Members, Councillors Ahlfeld, McKenzie, McVey and Quinn, voted in favour of the amendment and 14 Members, Provost Brennan, Councillors Dorrian, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, Moran, Murphy, Rebecchi, Crowther, Curley, C McEleny, J McEleny, Nelson and Robertson voted in favour of the motion which was declared carried. 2 Members, Councillors Brooks and Wilson, abstained from voting.

**Decided:** that the following motion be agreed:

“Inverclyde Council has had to manage significant budget pressures for over a decade. Each year over that period the budget settlement for Inverclyde Council has reduced in real terms. Successive Governments at both a UK and Scottish level have presided over the funding regime during this period.

The Council has adopted different approaches to deal with this problem. On the one hand it has made efficiency savings which have eased budget gaps by increasing income or reducing spending but without any impact on services. On the other hand, and to a lesser extent, it has reduced or withdrawn services.

Moving forward, both the Council and the Trades Unions recognise that there is less and less scope for further efficiency savings. Further reductions in the settlement grant will inevitably lead to services being reduced or withdrawn. This will in turn impact on the most vulnerable people in our communities.

This Council and Trades Unions believe that austerity as a political and economic strategy is completely discredited and has inflicted untold damage on our workforce, public services and our communities.

This Council and Trades Unions resolve to:

- publicly and consistently advocate for a fair Local Government settlement.
- persuade Governments to make money available to ensure that vital services for Inverclyde residents are maintained at the level required for communities that are amongst the poorest in Scotland.
- work jointly in campaigns at all levels of Government against austerity and the impact of austerity on Local Government services.

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- invite the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Scotland to Inverclyde to visit the vital Council services that are under threat due to continued UK government austerity.”

**530 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – The Inverclyde Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Variation No. 8) Order 2017 530**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 31 August 2017 requesting approval of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order – The Inverclyde Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Variation No. 8) Order 2017.

**Decided:** that the Inverclyde Council approve the making of the Traffic Regulation Order - The Inverclyde Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Variation No. 8) Order 2017 and that the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services and Head of Legal & Property Services be authorised to take all necessary action in connection therewith.

**531 Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative – Collaboration to Deliver Excellence and Equity in Education 531**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on a remit from the Education & Communities Committee of 5 September 2017 seeking approval of recommendations for additional governance arrangements for Education in the Glasgow City Region to ensure greater collaboration whilst maintaining local accountability.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the recommendation from the Glasgow City Region Cabinet that the recommendations outlined in Appendix 1 of the report to its 15 August 2017 meeting are progressed with regular updates being submitted to the Education & Communities Committee.

**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**

**532 Health & Social Care Committee – 24 August 2017 532**

**Approved** on the motion of Councillor Moran.

**533 Environment & Regeneration Committee – 31 August 2017 533**

**Approved** on the motion of Councillor McCormick.

**534 Education & Communities Committee – 5 September 2017 534**

**Approved** on the motion of Councillor Murphy.

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| 535 | <b>General Purposes Board – 13 September 2017</b>           | 535 |
|     | Approved on the motion of Councillor Dorrian.               |     |
| 536 | <b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee – 19 September 2017</b> | 536 |
|     | Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe.                |     |