

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 18 September 2018 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Chief Financial Officer, Ms T Bunton and Ms A Locke (Finance Services), Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Head of Health & Community Care, Environmental Services Manager, Corporate Procurement Manager, Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager, Service Manager (Inequalities, Migration and Strategic Housing) and Corporate Communications Manager.

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

512 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 512

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor MacLeod, with Councillor Crowther substituting.

Councillors Ahlfeld and Robertson declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 (Annual Procurement Report).

513 Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2018/21 – Progress Report 513

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

Decided: that the Committee note the current position of the 2018/21 Capital Programme, the reported net slippage and the progress of the specific projects detailed in the report and Appendix 1.

514 2018/21 Capital Programme 514

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the 2018/21 Capital Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee grant approval for the 2018/19 Capital Budget to be restated to reflect the information omitted at the time the budget was approved; and
- (2) that otherwise, the Committee note the current position of the Capital Programme 2018/21.

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- 515 Policy & Resources Committee 2018/19 Revenue Budget – Period 4 to 31 July 2018 515**
- 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 2017/18 Revenue Budget outturn and the 2018/19 projected outturn for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 4, 31 July 2018.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the 2017/18 Revenue Budget outturn and the 2018/19 projected underspend of £465,000 for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 4, 31 July 2018; and
- (2) that the Committee note the projected 2018/19 surplus of £16,640 for the Common Good Fund and that action was agreed as part of the 2018/19 Budget to begin to increase the fund balance to its recommended level.
- 516 2018/19 General Fund Revenue Budget as at 31 July 2018 516**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 31 July 2018 and (2) providing an update in respect of the position of the General Fund Reserves and Earmarked Reserves.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the latest position of the 2018/19 Revenue Budget and General Fund Reserves; and
- (2) that the Committee note that the use of any Free Reserves will be considered as part of the 2019/20 Budget process.
- 517 Debt Recovery Performance 2017/18 517**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the Council's Debt Recovery performance during 2017/18.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee welcome the Council's continued good debt recovery performance in 2017/18 as set out in the report; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be extended to the staff involved.
- 518 Customer Services Strategy/Annual Performance Update 518**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) seeking approval for the 2018/21 Customer Services Strategy and the resultant Action Plan and (2) providing an update on the Customer Service Centre (CSC) performance for 2017/18.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee approve the 2018/21 Customer Services Strategy and associated Action Plan;
- (2) that the Committee note the positive progress made in continuing to deliver the CSC Action Plan and the plans for further improvement/development in 2018/21; and
- (3) that the Committee note the ongoing impact of Welfare Reform changes, particularly Universal Credit (UC) including the new Scottish Social Security Agency, on the workload/service delivery within the Customer Service Centre.

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| 519 | Welfare Reforms Update | 519 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on the impacts of the UK Government's Welfare Reforms and recent national publications on Universal Credit and the Scottish Welfare Fund.</p> <p>Decided: that the Committee note the various matters highlighted in the report relative to Welfare Reforms and that a further update will be submitted to the November meeting of the Committee.</p> | |
| 520 | Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans - Annual Review | 520 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the annual review of the Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans (CDIPs).</p> <p>Decided: that the Committee approve the refreshed Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Environment, Regeneration & Resources CDIPs for the period 2018/19, appended to the report.</p> | |
| 521 | Inverclyde's Best Value Assurance Report Improvement Plan Progress Report | 521 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on the Inverclyde Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) Improvement Plan for Inverclyde Council.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee note the progress made with regard to the BVAR improvement actions set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and</p> <p>(2) that it be agreed that a progress report be submitted to the Committee every six months.</p> | |
| 522 | Annual Procurement Report | 522 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) seeking approval to publish the Annual Procurement Report set out in Appendix 1 and (2) providing an update on the latest spend with local and SME suppliers.</p> <p>Councillors Ahlfeld and Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of Inverclyde Community Development Trust. They also 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.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee approve the Annual Procurement Report for publication on the Council's website;</p> <p>(2) that the Committee note the latest spend with SMEs and local suppliers;</p> <p>(3) that the regular Riverside Inverclyde update reports submitted to the Environment & Regeneration Committee include information on local supplier procurement spend; and</p> | |

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(4) that it be noted that regular reports will be submitted to the Environment & Regeneration Committee on Community Benefit outcomes.

523 2019/20 Budget Strategy**523**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for various aspects of the 2019/20 Revenue Budget Strategy in order that Officers can progress actions and finalise the timetable for delivery of the budget.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree the report and specifically:
 - (a) that the budget be developed on the basis of a one year (2019/20) budget with the opportunity for Members to take decisions beyond this time, should sufficient information become available;
 - (b) that no Voluntary Early Release (VER) trawls or decisions on specific savings be taken until there is greater certainty on the overall funding gap;
 - (c) that Officers progress a budget consultation with the public and employees as set out in Appendix 3;
- (2) that the Committee agree the adjustments valued at £331,000 contained in Appendix 4; and
- (3) that the Committee note the current position of the 2018/19 pay negotiations and the potential impact on the 2019/20 funding gap.

524 Council Response to Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Consultation – Barclay Review**524**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for a response to the Scottish Government's consultation on proposed changes to Non-Domestic Rates arising from the Barclay Review.

Decided: that the Committee approve the response to the current Non-Domestic Rates consultation appended to the report and approve its submission to the Scottish Government by 19 September 2018.

525 Councils' Use of Arm's-Length Organisations – Report by the Accounts Commission**525**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) advising the Committee of a recent report by the Accounts Commission on the use of Arm's-Length Organisations (ALEOs) and (2) highlighting relevant matters.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the Accounts Commission report 'Councils' Use of Arm's-Length Organisations' and the matters raised in the report; and
- (2) that the Committee approve the action set out by Officers in Appendix 2 and note that progress on these actions will be reported back as part of the annual governance of external organisations.

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526 The Fairer Scotland Duty

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications informing the Committee of the Fairer Scotland Duty arising from Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010 which came into force in Scotland in April 2018 and which places a legal responsibility on public bodies in Scotland actively to consider how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the report;
- (2) that the Committee agree that the appropriate Officer referred to in paragraph 4.1 of the report be the Corporate Policy Officer with responsibility for Equalities, with support from the Corporate Policy Officer – Poverty;
- (3) that the Committee agree the addition of the Fairer Scotland Duty into the Equalities Implications section of the Council report template; and
- (4) that the Committee agree the integration of the Fairer Scotland Duty into the Council's current Equality Impact Assessment process.

527 Tail o' The Bank Credit Union

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on progress relative to the establishment of school-based credit union accounts and the continued development to encourage a savings mentality and positive culture of financial awareness through the Curriculum for Excellence.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note that all schools will continue to support and encourage the promotion of credit union accounts; and
- (2) that the Committee note that all schools will be encouraged to continue to use curriculum-based activities and develop other financial initiatives and approaches to tackle child poverty across Inverclyde.

528 European Charter of Local Self Government – Private Member's Bill

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services outlining a possible response by the Council to the consultation invited by Andy Wightman MSP relative to his proposal for a Private Member's Bill for the Scottish Parliament to consider the incorporation of a European Charter of Local Self Government into law in Scotland.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the consultation document and relative questionnaire; and
- (2) that the Committee approve the consultation response outlined in Appendix 2.

529 Remembrance Commemorations

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (1) advising Members of the plans to commemorate Remembrance Sunday and the additional 'Battle's Over' commemorations and (2) setting out opportunities to support the commemorations and RAF 100.

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Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the additional 'Battle's Over' arrangements being held at Lyle Hill in addition to the acts of commemoration in towns and villages across Inverclyde;
- (2) that the Committee approve the purchase and installation of seven silhouetted figures known as "Tommies" to be sited close to the existing war memorials to support the 'There But Not There' campaign;
- (3) that the Committee support the additional activities to support RAF 100 and the work of the Air Force Cadets locally;
- (4) that the Committee approve the support for Poppy Scotland, including the projections at Cowan's Corner and authorise Officers to examine opportunities for further use of projection equipment; and
- (5) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the Canadian Armed Forces' connection to the local area and the appropriateness of including a Canadian government representative in future remembrance commemorations.

530 Ward 7 Community Facilities Review: Remit from Education & Communities Committee 530

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Education & Communities Committee of 4 September 2018 requesting the Committee to approve a one-off investment in relation to the proposed Grieve Road Community Centre improvements arising from the review of Ward 7 community facilities.

Decided: that the matter be referred to the Members' Budget Working Group for consideration as part of the budget process.

The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to determine the action to be taken in relation to service delivery options at the earliest opportunity.

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 undernoted item of business on the grounds that consideration of the item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in Paragraphs 1, 6, 8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

531 Greenlight – Service Delivery Options 531

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources providing an update on the actions taken by Officers as a result of Greenlight Environmental Ltd going into administration on 31 August 2018. The Committee agreed to the action recommended in respect of future service delivery options, all as detailed in the appendix.