

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 MAY 2019

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 21 May 2019 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided for agenda items 1-11, 12 (part), 13-15 and 17-25 and Councillor Clocherty presided for items 12 (part) and 16.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Ms H Watson (for Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership), Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms C Craig-McDonald, Mr A Greer and Ms R McGhee (Legal & Property Services), Chief Financial Officer, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager and Ms G Baxter (Human Resources, Policy & Communications).

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

374 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 374

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

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 7 (Welfare Reform Update) – Councillor J McEleny;
 Agenda Item 16 (Local Child Poverty Action Report) – Councillor Robertson; and
 Agenda Item 24 (Beacon Arts Centre, Request for Funding) – Councillors Clocherty and Robertson.

375 Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2018/2023 – Progress Report 375

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 current position of the 2018/23 Capital Programme and the progress on the specific projects detailed in the report and Appendix 1 be noted.

376 2018/23 Capital Programme 376

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the 2018/23 Capital Programme.

Decided: that it be agreed to note the current position of the 2018/23 Capital Programme and that a report on the 2018/19 outturn will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

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377 Policy & Resources Committee 2018/19 Revenue Budget – Period 11 to 28 February 2019 377

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer on the 2018/19 projected outturn for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 11 to 28 February 2019.

Decided:

- (1) that the 2018/19 projected underspend of £778,000 for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 11 to 28 February 2019 be noted; and
- (2) that the projected 2018/19 surplus of £20,410 for the Common Good Fund be noted.

378 2018/19 General Fund Revenue Budget as at 28 February 2019 378

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 28 February 2019 and (2) providing an update in respect of the position of the General Fund Reserves and Earmarked Reserves.

Decided:

- (1) that the latest position of the 2018/19 Revenue Budget and General Fund Reserves be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the use of any Free Reserves over and above £3.8M be considered as part of the 2020/23 budget process.

379 2019/20 Budget – Initial Position 379

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the initial position of the 2019/20 Revenue Budget.

Decided: that the initial position of the 2019/20 Revenue Budget, the current position of the Council's Free Reserves and the potential adjustment identified by officers arising from the prior year treatment of the Capital Fund be noted.

380 Welfare Reform Update 380

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on recent developments in respect of Welfare Reform and (2) seeking approval for a policy change in investments funded from the Anti-Poverty Fund.

Councillor J McEleny declared a financial interest in this matter as a Trustee of Home-Start and left the meeting prior to its consideration.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the updated Discretionary Housing Payments policy set out in Appendix 3;
- (2) that approval be given to the one-off investments funded from the Anti-Poverty Fund and detailed in section 11 of the report; and
- (3) that the report otherwise be noted.

Councillor J McEleny returned to the meeting at this juncture.

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381 Corporate Services Progress Report 2018/19 381

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing an update on the achievement of key objectives during 2018/19 by the Council's Corporate Services, as detailed in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans (CDIPs) 2016/19 focusing on actions which sit within Finance and ICT, Legal & Property, Procurement, Organisational Development and Policy and Communications.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made by the Council's Corporate Services during 2018/19 in delivering the three year improvement actions detailed in their respective CDIPs be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that this was the last progress report on the Corporate Services elements of the CDIPs for the period 2016-2019.

382 NRS Mid-Year Population Estimates (2018) for Inverclyde and Scotland 382

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing details of the latest mid-year population estimates (2018) published by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) on 25 April 2019.

Decided:

- (1) that the latest mid-year population estimates for Inverclyde and Scotland be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to the Inverclyde Alliance Population Partnership to consider and report back these latest population statistics to the appropriate committees and agree any additional actions in connection with these including information on natural change and migration.

383 Accounts Commission Report – Challenges and Performance 2019 383

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (1) on the publication of the Accounts Commission Report "Local Government in Scotland, Challenges and Performance 2019", (2) highlighting relevant matters and (3) seeking approval for any actions arising.

(Councillor Wilson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the Accounts Commission Report "Local Government in Scotland, Challenges and Performance 2019" be noted and that approval be given to the Action Plan set out in Appendix 1;
- (2) that the Head of Organisational Development, Policy and Communications arrange a briefing session for Members in relation to the Accounts Commission report; and
- (3) that it be remitted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to carry out a review of Members' support, including consultation with other Councils, and to submit a report to the Committee in due course.

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| 384 | Audit Scotland Report on South Lanarkshire Council | 384 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications summarising the main points of Audit Scotland's 2019 Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) on South Lanarkshire Council.</p> <p>Decided: that it be agreed to note the content of Audit Scotland's BVAR on South Lanarkshire Council and to take cognisance of the recommendations made in respect of that local authority.</p> | |
| 385 | Freedom of Information Requests 2018 | 385 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources providing details of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the Council from January to December 2018.</p> <p>(Councillor McCabe left the meeting during consideration of this item of business and Councillor Clocherty assumed the Chair.</p> <p>Councillor Wilson returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).</p> <p>Decided: that the information provided in relation to FOI requests received by the Council during 2018 be noted.</p> | |
| 386 | General Data Protection Regulation Update | 386 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services providing the annual update on the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) within the Council.</p> <p>(Councillor J McEleny left the meeting and Councillor McCabe returned and resumed the Chair during consideration of this item of business).</p> <p>Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.</p> | |
| 387 | Employee Opinion Survey - 2018 | 387 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications on the results of the latest three-yearly Council-wide Employee Opinion Survey carried out in October 2018.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) that the positive outcome of the Employee Opinion Survey results be noted; (2) that it be noted that the Employee Opinion Survey results will be issued to Council employees via an ICON message from the Chief Executive ensuring that the communication can be included on noticeboards, etc. for non PC users; and (3) that the action plan set out in Appendix 1 to address the key actions of the survey, including feedback to employees on the progress of the plan, be noted. | |
| 388 | Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans 2019/22 | 388 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking approval of the new Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans for 2019/22.</p> | |

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Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the new Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans 2019/22; and
- (2) that it be noted that performance reports on the corporate elements of these plans will be presented to every second meeting of the Committee.

389 Local Child Poverty Action Report 389

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of the draft Inverclyde Local Child Poverty Action Report (LAR), a copy of which was appended to the report.

Councillor Robertson declared non-financial interests in this matter as a Board Member of Financial Fitness and a consultant to Stepwell. She also formed the view that the nature of her interests and of the item of business did not preclude her continued presence in the Chamber or her participation in the decision-making process.

(Councillor McCabe left the meeting during consideration of this item of business and Councillor Clocherty assumed the Chair.

Councillor McCabe then returned to the meeting).

Decided:

- (1) that the funding detailed within the draft Inverclyde Local Child Poverty Action Report be approved; and
- (2) that it be agreed to approve the LAR Report 2018/19 and note that this will be submitted to the Scottish Government on 30 June 2019.

Councillor McCabe resumed the Chair at this juncture.

390 Draft Integration Review Self Evaluation 390

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing a draft self-evaluation for review of progress with the integration of Health & Social Care for the Committee's comment and feedback, prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

Decided: that it be agreed to approve the draft self-evaluation for submission by the revised deadline.

391 Proposed Wheelchairs (Short Term Access) Scotland Bill 391

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership on Inverclyde HSCP's response to the Proposed Wheelchairs (Short Term Access) Scotland Bill.

Decided: that the content of the questionnaire response be noted.

392 Information Sharing Protocol 392

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services providing an overview of the amended Information Sharing Protocol, which had been updated to reflect the new requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation, and seeking approval of the amended policy, a copy of which was appended to the report.

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Decided: that the Information Sharing Protocol be approved.

393 Scheme of Delegation (Officers) 393

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services requesting the Committee to remit it to the Head of Legal & Property Services to make any necessary consequential arrangements to update the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) in the event of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union.

Decided: that it be remitted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to make any consequential arrangements to update the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) as necessary with effect from the date of the UK withdrawal from the EU.

394 Contract Awards – 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019 394

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advising the Committee of contracts awarded for the supply of goods or materials, provision of services and execution of works during the period 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019.

Decided: that the contracts awarded by the Council during the period 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019 be noted.

395 Treasury Management Consultants Tender – Variation to Price/Quality Split 395

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for a variation to the standard price/quality split to be used in the tender process and evaluation of a proposed tender for Treasury Management Consultants.

Decided: that it be agreed to suspend Contract Standing Order 13.2 and to approve the use of a 60% quality and 40% cost of service weighting in the forthcoming tender for the contract for Treasury Management Consultants.

396 Additional In-Service Days for Schools 396

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of two additional in-service days during session 2019/20.

Decided: that approval be given to additional in-service days on Tuesday 22 October 2019 and 27 February 2020 for all schools.

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)
Welfare Reform Update – Appendix	6
Beacon Arts Centre, Request for Funding	6 and 12

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397 Welfare Reform Update – Appendix 8 397

There was submitted Appendix 8 relative to Agenda Item 7 (Welfare Reform Update) providing information on households which left a Private Rented Sector tenancy.

Decided: that the terms of Appendix 8 be noted.

398 Beacon Arts Centre, Request for Funding 398

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on a request received from the Greenock Arts Guild Board for one-off funding from the Council.

Councillors Clocherty and Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as Board Members of Greenock Arts Guild Ltd. 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.

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