

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 4 FEBRUARY 2020**

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**Policy & Resources Committee**

**Tuesday 4 February 2020 at 3pm**

**Present:** Provost Brennan (for Councillor Rebecchi), Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, Curley (for MacLeod), McCabe, McCormick, C McEleny, McVey, Moran, Robertson and Wilson.

**Chair:** Councillor McCabe presided.

**In attendance:** Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Service Manager Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport, 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, ICT Service Manager, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager, Procurement, Regeneration & Building Services Manager and Service Manager – Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

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

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|-----------|---|-----------|
| <b>64</b> | <b>Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest</b>  | <b>64</b> |
|           | <p>Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor MacLeod, with Councillor Curley substituting, and Councillor Rebecchi, with Provost Brennan substituting.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were intimated.</p>  |           |
| <b>65</b> | <b>2019/20 General Fund Revenue Budget as at 30 November 2019</b>   | <b>65</b> |
|           | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 30 November 2019 and (2) providing an update in respect of the position of the General Fund Reserves and Earmarked Reserves.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b></p> <p>(1) that the latest position of the 2019/20 Revenue Budget and General Fund Reserves be noted; and</p> <p>(2) that it be noted that the use of any Free Reserves will be considered as part of the 2020/23 budget process.</p> |           |
| <b>66</b> | <b>2019/23 Capital Programme</b>  | <b>66</b> |
|           | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the 2019/23 Capital Programme.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b></p> <p>(1) that the current position of the 2019/23 Capital Programme be noted; and</p> <p>(2) that it be noted that a refreshed 2020/23 Capital Programme will be considered as part of the March 2020 budget.</p>  |           |

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**67 Policy & Resources Committee 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budget – Period 8 to 30 November 2019 67**

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 position of the 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budget as at Period 8 to 30 November 2019.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the 2019/20 Revenue Budget projected underspend of £1,957,000 as at Period 8 to 30 November 2019 be noted;
- (2) that the projected 2019/20 surplus of £45,000 for the Common Good Fund be noted; and
- (3) that the current projected Capital position be noted.

**68 Welfare Reform Update 68**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on recent developments in respect of Welfare Reforms and associated matters.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the updates provided in the report be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the amendments to the Discretionary Housing Payments Policy set out in Appendix 4 to the report;
- (3) that approval be given to the War Pensions Disregard Policy set out in section 8 of the report;
- (4) that approval be given to the further allocation of funding from the Anti-Poverty earmarked reserves set out in section 10 of the report; and
- (5) that information on the outcomes achieved by the Homestart, Cook School project be included in the next update report to the Committee.

**69 ICT Services Performance Update 69**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on the Digital and ICT Strategies, performance and Channel Shift statistics, details of the Council's PC refresh programme and information on a number of upgrade projects being implemented by ICT and Finance Services.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the performance statistics report and action plan updates for the Digital and ICT Strategies be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the current Digital Strategy funding is almost fully committed.

**70 Corporate Services Progress Report 70**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications updating the Committee on the delivery of the improvement actions by the Council's Corporate Services, as detailed in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans (CDIPs) 2019/22.

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**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress made by the Council's Corporate Services during 2019/20 in delivering the year one improvement actions, as detailed in their respective CDIPs, be noted; and
- (2) that the programme of Public Service Improvement Framework assessments that will be carried out in 2020 be noted.

**71 SiMBA Inverclyde Tree of Tranquility – Request by Councillor McCabe 71**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a request received from Councillor McCabe that consideration be given to a request from SiMBA, a charity that supports anyone affected by the loss of a baby during pregnancy or birth, for funding of £6,880.26 towards the installation of a Tree of Tranquility in Gourrock Park.

**Decided:** that support be given to SiMBA's proposal for the installation of a Tree of Tranquility within Gourrock Park, that Council officers work with the Group, the preferred course of action being that the Council procure and install the tree directly, and that a contribution of up to £10,000 from the Revenue Contingency be made to the overall project and suitable landscaping.

**72 Accounts Commission Report – Local Government Financial Overview 2018/19 72**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the main issues raised in the recent Local Government Financial Overview report by the Accounts Commission and (2) highlighting relevant matters.

**Decided:** that it be agreed to note the contents of the Accounts Commission report and to approve the Officer assessment of where the Council is placed against the matters raised in Appendix 1.

**73 2020/23 Revenue Budget Update 73**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update in respect of the 2020/23 Revenue Budget and (2) seeking approval of a number of matters.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be agreed to note the latest position regarding the UK and Scottish Budget announcements and that there is not expected to be any impact on the timescales previously agreed by the Council;
- (2) that approval be given to the proposals set out in Appendix 1 to the report which will further reduce the 2020/21 Revenue Funding gap by £418,000;
- (3) that the latest estimated funding gap position of the 2020/23 Budget outlined in Appendix 2 be noted;
- (4) that it be agreed to add the two savings in respect of terms and conditions and classroom assistants to the Council's Delivering Differently programme and that these be progressed through that process with reports being submitted to the relevant Committees as appropriate;
- (5) that the contents and requests within the CoSLA Invest in Essential Services document be noted; and

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(6) that it be noted that a further update on the 2020/23 Revenue Budget will be submitted to the Council on 20 February 2020 as part of the consideration of the Council Tax level for 2020/21.

**74 Analysis of the Results from the Budget Consultation 2019 74**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications on the analysis of the results from the budget consultation 2019, which included a total of 30 budget saving proposals (excluding charges).

**Decided:** that cognisance be taken of the feedback provided during the budget consultation 2019 when considering decisions about the Council's budget 2020/23.

**75 Participatory Budgeting in Inverclyde: Evaluation and Next Steps 75**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an evaluation of phase 1 of the Participatory Budgeting (PB) approach in Inverclyde and (2) making proposals for a revised approach towards mainstreaming PB in Inverclyde.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the evaluation of the pilot phase 1 of the PB process in Inverclyde be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed to implement the revised approach to PB in Inverclyde set out in the report by March 2021;
- (3) that it be agreed to use the current PB Earmarked Reserve for the establishment of a temporary Community Learning & Development worker for 18 months to support the process;
- (4) that it be agreed that areas of budget which can be taken through the PB process be identified by Committees on an ongoing basis; and
- (5) that a report on locality planning, including the role of Elected Members, be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

**76 People and Organisational Development Strategy 2020-2023 76**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (1) providing an update on the delivery of the existing Organisational Development Strategy 2017-2020 and (2) seeking approval of the fourth edition of the People and Organisational Development Strategy for 2020-2023.

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

**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress made in the delivery of the Council's Organisational Development Strategy 2017-2020 be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the People and Organisational Development Strategy 2020-2023 attached to the report at Appendix 1; and
- (3) that it be noted that the key messages of the Strategy will be communicated to Council employees and managers to raise awareness.

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**77 Kilmacolm Self Build – Leperstone Avenue: Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee 77**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 16 January 2020 relative to the self-build project at Leperstone Avenue, Kilmacolm requesting the Committee to approve the use of the Capital Fund to settle any funds due to Riverside Inverclyde for their involvement in the project.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the use of the Capital Fund to settle any funds due to Riverside Inverclyde for their involvement in the self-build project at Leperstone Avenue, Kilmacolm.

**The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications was relevant, competent and urgent, moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to be apprised of the key points contained within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020 at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.**

**78 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020 78**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing an overview of the key points and initial commentary on the data contained within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020, published by the Scottish Government on 28 January 2020, with particular focus on the data relating to Inverclyde.

(Councillor Ahlfeld returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

**Decided:** that the Committee note:-

- (a) the key points arising from the SIMD 2020;
- (b) that a more detailed analysis of the data will be carried out and a report with associated recommendations submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 24 March 2020;
- (c) that further engagement will take place with the Scottish Government to provide assistance for the local economy and communities within Inverclyde; and
- (d) that the report will be submitted to the Inverclyde Alliance Board for consideration and action to reduce inequalities within Inverclyde.

**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 grounds 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)
Advice Services – Case Management System	6 and 8
Interim Head of Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness	1

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**79 Advice Services – Case Management System****79**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership seeking approval of a direct award for the purchase of a Case Management System when the current contract comes to an end on 20 February 2020.

**Decided:** that approval be given to a direct award for the purchase of the Advice Pro Case Management System.

**80 Interim Head of Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness****80**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership seeking approval of (1) the appointment through external advertisement of the post of Interim Head of Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness and (2) the arrangements for the recruitment panel composition for any future interim appointments.

**Decided:**

- (1) that approval be given to the appointment through external advertisement of an Interim Head of Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness; and
- (2) that approval be given to the arrangements set out in the report for the recruitment panel composition for any future interim appointments.