

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 20 FEBRUARY 2020**

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**The Inverclyde Council**

**Thursday 20 February 2020 at 4pm**

**Present:** Provost Brennan, Councillors Ahlfeld, Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Dorrian, Jackson, MacLeod, 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 Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Mr A McEwan (for Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development), Chief Financial Officer, Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Head of Environmental & Public Protection, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications and Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

**95 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 95**

No apologies for absence were intimated.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 6 (Campaign to Save Inchgreen Dry Dock – Request by Councillor McCabe) – Councillor Wilson.

Agenda Item 9 (Housing 2040 Consultation) – Councillors Brooks, Curley and McVey.

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

**96 The Inverclyde Council – 5 December 2019 96**

**Approved** on the motion of Provost Brennan.

**97 Audit Committee – 7 January 2020 97**

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

**98 Planning Board – 8 January 2020 98**

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

**99 Health & Social Care Committee – 9 January 2020 99**

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

**100 General Purposes Board – 15 January 2020 100**

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

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<b>101</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee – 16 January 2020</b>	<b>101</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	
<b>102</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communities Committee – 21 January 2020</b>	<b>102</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
<b>103</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee – 4 February 2020</b>	<b>103</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McCabe.	
<b>104</b>	<b>Planning Board – 5 February 2020</b>	<b>104</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Wilson.	
<b>105</b>	<b>Local Police &amp; Fire Scrutiny Committee – 6 February 2020</b>	<b>105</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
<b>106</b>	<b>General Purposes Board – 12 February 2020</b>	<b>106</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Dorrian.	
<b>107</b>	<b>Grants Sub-Committee – 18 February 2020</b>	<b>107</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Brooks.	
<b>108</b>	<b>Approval of the Band D Council Tax for 2020/21</b>	<b>108</b>

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing information on the latest position of the 2020/21 Revenue Budget to allow the level of Band D Council Tax for 2020/21 to be determined.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the budget savings/adjustments totalling £1,071,000 as set out in Appendix 2 be approved and the latest position of the 2020/21 Budget as set out in Appendix 1 be noted;
- (2) that the advice from the Chief Financial Officer and the Head of Legal & Property Services regarding the setting of the Band D Council Tax for 2020/21 in advance of confirmation of the 2020/21 Revenue Budget be noted;
- (3) that the recommendation of the Members' Budget Working Group be approved and that the level of Band D Council Tax for 2020/21 be set at £1,331.84; and
- (4) that it be noted that the Council would convene on 12 March 2020 to consider the 2020/21 Budget which would include the finalised Local Government Finance Settlement for Inverclyde Council.

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**109 Resolution: Setting of Band D Council Tax for 2020/21 109**

Arising from the foregoing paragraph, Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Clocherty moved that the Council implement a 3.0% increase in the Council Tax for 2020/21 and accordingly resolved to set the Band D Council Tax at £1,331.84.

**Decided:** that the Band D Council Tax for 2020/21 be set at £1,331.84.

**110 Environmental Impact – Notice of Motion by Councillor Curley 110**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advising of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor Curley, countersigned by Councillor MacLeod, submitted in terms of Standing Order 22 in the following terms:

“Inverclyde Council notes that:

i) The First Minister of Scotland declared a climate emergency on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 followed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2019 and endorses the need, as outlined in these declarations, to act now to mitigate the damage caused by humans to our planet’s environment to avoid catastrophic climate change, loss of habitat and mass extinction;

ii) Young people across the planet are leading the way in pressing their respective governments to address global climate change.

Accordingly, the Council resolves that an environmental overview will be contained in all reports presented to the Council and Council Committees to enable Elected Members to take due cognisance of the environment when making decisions and to enable the public to hold Elected Members to account on the environmental impact of their decisions”.

**Decided:**

(1) that the terms of the Notice of Motion be agreed; and

(2) that a report be submitted on the practical issues involved in ensuring that due consideration can be given to the environmental impact in all Council reports.

**111 The Campaign to Save Inchgreen Dry Dock – Request by Councillor McCabe 111**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advising of a request received from Councillor McCabe that consideration be given to a motion received from the Campaign to Save Inchgreen Dry Dock in the following terms:

“Inverclyde Council supports the need to return Inchgreen dry dock to a fully operational facility providing work and skilled jobs and thereby contribute towards the regeneration of our marine engineering industries providing improved prospects for our community.

We believe an opportunity exists for Ferguson Marine to use Inchgreen dry dock and enter the market to maintain and service the Scottish ferry fleet, build and assemble larger ships, enhance the workforce skills and create additional commercial opportunities for the long-term success of the Shipyard and its workforce.

Inverclyde Council recognises that Inchgreen dry dock is in private ownership and under-utilised and calls on the Scottish Government to engage with the dock owners to facilitate the above positive proposals.”

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Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest in this item as a friend of the Chief Executive of Peel Ports Group, owners of Inchgreen dry dock. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the Chamber or his participation in the decision-making process.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be agreed to support the motion submitted by the Campaign to Save Inchgreen Dry Dock;
- (2) that discussions continue between Council Officers and the owners of the dry dock as part of the wider City Deal project; and
- (3) that a meeting be sought between Elected Members, with cross-party representation, and the Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Fair Work & Culture with the aim of ensuring the involvement of the Scottish Government in discussions regarding the use of the dry dock and how this could be developed.

**112      Gourock – Dunoon Infrastructure and Vessels Project – Reference Group      112**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking an Elected Member nominee, and substitute, to be part of the Reference Group of local stakeholders which would have an input into planning for the Gourock – Dunoon infrastructure and vessels.

**Decided:**

- (1) that Councillor C McEleny be appointed as the Council's representative to join the Reference Group associated with the Gourock – Dunoon Infrastructure and Vessels Project and that Councillor Quinn be appointed as the substitute member; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the May meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee clarifying the objectives and proposed outcomes of the Reference Group.

**113      CoSLA: Family Leave Guidance for Councillors      113**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources requesting the Council to consider the guidance issued by CoSLA relative to family leave for Councillors.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be agreed to adopt CoSLA's "Family Leave Guidance for Councillors" for implementation by the Chief Executive in any situations so arising;
- (2) that it be remitted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council's Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer to apply these principles in practice for any applications that may be made and to review the implementation of the guidance from time to time, as accords, with representatives of all political groups; and
- (3) that it be remitted to officers to investigate the extent to which other policies which apply to Council employees could be considered for Elected Members (recognising Elected Members are not employees) and that a report thereon be submitted in due course.

**114      Housing to 2040 Consultation      114**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advising the Council of a response due to the Scottish Government's "Housing to 2040" consultation and seeking Members' views on the proposed response.

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Councillor Brooks declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Member of the Board of River Clyde Homes. Councillor Curley declared a non-financial interest as a member of the Board of River Clyde Homes and as a private landlord, and Councillor McVey declared a non-financial interest as a private landlord. All 3 Members 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:** that approval in principle be given to the draft response to the “Housing to 2040” consultation as set out in the appendix to the report subject to alteration to take account of (a) the recently published Scottish Index on Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020, (b) the comments made by Members at the briefing held earlier in the day and (c) the comments made by Councillor MacLeod in respect of disabled/wheelchair accessible housing.

**115 Administrative Arrangements: Determination of Planning Applications subject to a Pre-Determination Hearing**

115

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services advising of legislative changes to the determination of those planning applications which are subject to a Pre-Determination Hearing (PDH) and requesting the Council to approve the proposals set out in paragraph 6.4 of the report and the consequent changes to the Scheme of Administration.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the arrangements as set out in paragraph 6.7 of the report with the following effect:

- (1) that Inverclyde Council continue to determine planning applications which are subject to a Pre-Determination Hearing (PDH);
- (2) that it be a requirement that any Members voting at the Council determination of a PDH application (a) obtain and maintain their certificate of training relative to planning applications and (b) ensure that they fully attend (even if not a Member of the Planning Board) the Pre-Determination Hearing meeting itself and any relative site visit decided upon by the Planning Board in connection with the application;
- (3) that any Members attending the Council determination of a PDH application and not meeting the criteria set out in paragraph 2 above be permitted to participate in the debate and to make representations but be not entitled to vote on the determination of the application; and
- (4) that it be remitted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to amend the Council’s Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration accordingly.

**116 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – The Inverclyde Council, Disabled Persons’ Parking Places (On-Street) Order No. 4 2019 – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee**

116

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 16 January 2020 requesting approval of the Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – The Inverclyde Council, Disabled Persons’ Parking Places (On-Street) Order No. 4 2019.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the making of the Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – The Inverclyde Council, Disabled Persons’ Parking Places (On-Street) Order No. 4 2019 and that the Shared Head of Service Roads and the Head of Legal & Property Services be authorised to take all necessary action in connection therewith.

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**117 George Wyllie Foundation – Elected Member Representation 117**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking an Elected Member nominee to be a Trustee of the George Wyllie Foundation.

**Decided:** that Councillor Murphy be nominated to be a Trustee of the George Wyllie Foundation.

**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**

**118 General Purposes Board – 15 January 2020 118**

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

**119 Environment & Regeneration Committee – 16 January 2020 119**

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

**120 General Purposes Board – 12 February 2020 120**

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