

**POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 5 MAY 2020**

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**Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee**

**Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 3pm**

**Present:** Councillors Ahlfeld (by telephone), Clocherty, McCabe, C McEleny, Robertson and Brooks (for Wilson).

**Chair:** Councillor McCabe presided.

**In attendance:** Chief Executive, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Property Services, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Environmental & Public Protection.

Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Head of Regeneration & Planning, Head of Education and Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety (all by telephone).

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

**222 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 222**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson, with Councillor Brooks substituting.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 3 (The Council's Financial Position – Update) – Councillors Brooks, Clocherty and Robertson.

**223 COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Scrutiny Report 223**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on actions taken by officers in order to address and mitigate the risks arising from the COVID-19 emergency.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the actions taken to date to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 emergency in Inverclyde be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that further reports would be submitted regularly for Members' scrutiny and review;
- (3) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee on all aspects of COVID-19 testing, including information on access arrangements for key workers and the community as a whole and any available comparative information on the position within other local authorities in Scotland;
- (4) that the Chief Executive write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport raising concerns regarding the non-availability of local testing for key workers working in other community settings and their families;
- (5) that a report be submitted to the Executive Sub-Committee providing an overview of the business areas in receipt of Business Support Grant and other specific information in relation to the particular companies in receipt of grant as may be agreed

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in consultation with the Scottish Government; and

(6) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources to liaise with the three Ward 5 Elected Members and Police Scotland prior to any representations being made to Scotrail regarding public access to Gourrock Station during operating hours.

**224 The Council's Financial Position – Update**

**224**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on various matters in relation to the Council's finances.

Councillors Brooks and Clocherty declared a non-financial interest in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure and Councillors Clocherty and Robertson declared a non-financial interest as members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild Ltd. All three Members formed the view that the nature of their interests and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence at the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Period 11 Revenue Budget position and the latest position of the 2019/22 Capital Programme be noted;
- (2) that the updated position in respect of Scottish Government funding set out in Appendix 3 and the latest assessed financial impact on the Council and Social Care set out in Appendix 4 be noted;
- (3) that the current position in respect of support for suppliers and partner organisations set out in Appendix 5 be noted; and
- (4) that the Management Report 2019/20 prepared by Audit Scotland be noted;

**225 Death Registration Update**

**225**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing (1) an update in respect of changes to the death registration process which has taken place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, (2) information in terms of the number of deaths registered in Inverclyde and (3) an update on emerging analysis of the reasons for the high number of deaths within Inverclyde during this period.

There was circulated to the Executive Sub-Committee, a graph showing deaths from COVID-19 in hospital and the community and from other causes during the period from 16 March to 27 April 2020, with comparative death rate figures for 2019.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the contents of the report and ongoing analysis and support being received by Public Health Scotland, National Records of Scotland and Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board be noted; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the Executive Sub-Committee as soon as is practicable providing an analysis of the deaths registered in Inverclyde, this analysis to include, if possible, data such as age, underlying health conditions and SIMD factors.

**226 COVID-19 Recovery Structure and Strategy**

**226**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking approval for a strategic approach and structure to progress recovery of Council Services and the restoration of more normal social and economic activities across the Inverclyde community as a whole.

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**Decided:**

- (1) that approval be given to the structures and reporting arrangements for the recovery process for the Council as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that approval in principle be given to the recovery structures and reporting arrangements for the community as set out in Appendix 2, subject to a further report being submitted on any potential Member representation on the Recovery Working Group and the three Sub-Groups listed.

**227 COVID-19 Impact on Mental Health – Request by Councillor C McEleny****227**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services on a request received from Councillor C McEleny in the following terms:

“That the Sub-Committee notes various reports from around the world of issues such as sudden loss and prolonged isolation having a negative impact on mental health. The Sub-Committee notes, with no clarity on how long social isolation measures may continue for, that the ongoing negative impact on the mental health of citizens is a concern to the Council.

The Sub-Committee requests that officers report back to the Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee measures that can be put in place to address the adverse impact on mental health the Coronavirus pandemic has on people in Inverclyde.”

**Decided:** that a report be submitted to the Executive Sub-Committee on the basis set out in the request by Councillor C McEleny.

**228 COVID-19 Impact on Education – Request by Councillor C McEleny****228**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services on a request received from Councillor C McEleny in the following terms:

“That the Sub-Committee notes that due to social isolation measures Inverclyde schools are currently closed and that there is no clarity on when it will be safe for schools to return, or whether or not a phased return may be put in place.

The Sub-Committee requests that officers bring a report to the Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee outlining how schooling at home has been supported; what options Inverclyde Council believes would be best to support children returning to school, including those due to undertake an education transition and start primary school in August 2020; and what measures are in place to best support equity of learning in relation to the known existing gap in educational attainment.”

**Decided:**

- (1) that a report be submitted to the Executive Sub-Committee on the basis set out in the request by Councillor C McEleny; and
- (2) that a report be submitted on the school opening programme when available.

**229 SQA Qualifications Arrangements 2019/20****229**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Education providing an update on the latest position and guidance from the SQA and Scottish Government regarding this year’s examinations and qualifications for senior pupils.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the report and SQA guidance for the 2020 examination diet be noted; and
- (2) that the actions taken by schools and Education Services to date and the actions proposed to support schools to deliver on the SQA guidance for the 2020 examination diet be noted.

**230 Placing Requests and Appeal Hearings During COVID-19****230**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the amendments to regulations in respect of placing requests during COVID-19 and (2) advising of the position in Inverclyde.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the amendments to regulations in relation to placing requests and appeals be noted; and
- (2) that agreement be given to the process for appeal hearings as set out in paragraph 6.4 of the report.

**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 item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 and 12 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

**231 Proposal by Peel Ports to Offer Temporary Lay-Up for Cruise Ships****231**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) advising that Peel Ports had notified the Council that they are receiving many requests from cruise ship operating companies to accommodate vessels in the Clyde which are not in service, (2) summarising the implications for the Council and the Health & Social Care Partnership of the proposals and (3) outlining the reasons why officers do not recommend the Council supports these actions at this time.

The Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advised the Executive Sub-Committee that he had received an update from Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board.

The report advised that the Health Board is opposed to additional pressures on the Health Service and is opposed in principle to cruise ships berthing in the Clyde at this time whereby Greenock would be the servicing port.

The update indicates that although the cruise ship laying-up cannot be stopped, the Health Board would seek detailed information on the proposal to assist it in working with the Council and other public agencies on the intended management plan, including servicing of vessels and disembarkation arrangements, and that pending these steps, Peel Ports should be discouraged from actively seeking the laying-up of cruise ships at Greenock at this time.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the position of Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board in respect of the proposal for cruise ships to berth in the Clyde with Greenock as the servicing port be noted;
- (2) that the implications for the Council as Port Health Authority in terms of resources should berthing proceed be noted;
- (3) that it be agreed that the Council is opposed to the laying-up of cruise ships at this time; and
- (4) that the Chief Executive write to the Chief Executive of Peel Ports advising of the Council's opposition to the laying-up of cruise ships in Greenock.