

POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 30 JUNE 2020

Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee

Tuesday 30 June 2020 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Head of Legal & Property Services, Chief Financial Officer, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Head of Environmental & Public Protection, Head of Regeneration & Planning, Shared Head of Service Roads, IT Service Manager, Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety, Ms S Lang and Ms C Craig-McDonald (Legal & Property Services).

The meeting was held by video-conference.

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

260 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 260

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

No declarations of interest were intimated.

261 COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Scrutiny Report 261

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

There was also submitted an addendum report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on the position regarding the temporary suspension of parking at certain locations to facilitate social distancing on footways as shops reopen.

Following discussion, Councillor Clocherty moved in relation to the addendum report, that the actions of officers to support the opening of non-essential shops be noted. As an amendment, Councillor Brooks moved that the closure of car parking spaces by temporary Traffic Regulation Orders be used only where officers determine that there is no detriment to trading and restrictions only be applied if necessary to facilitate social distancing and that, otherwise, temporary Traffic Regulation Orders be used only where necessary for the promotion of outdoor café culture.

Following a roll call vote, 1 Member, Councillor Clocherty, voted in favour of the motion and 5 Members, Councillors Ahlfeld, Brooks, McCabe, C McEleny and Robertson, voted in favour of the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided:

(1) that the actions taken to date to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 emergency in Inverclyde be noted;

POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 30 JUNE 2020

- (2) that it be noted that further reports will be submitted regularly for Members' scrutiny and review;
- (3) that authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to accept the most economically advantageous tender for the provision of school age counselling in variation of paragraph 17.3(ii) of the Standing Orders relating to Contracts;
- (4) that approval be given for the time limits on-street and in car parks and the charges in car parks to remain suspended until 11 August 2020, at which point these will again be reviewed;
- (5) that the Regeneration Capital Grants Fund repayment conditions relative to the Council's support of the Craighend Resource Centre project be noted;
- (6) that the response of the Scottish Government relative to the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund be noted and that the Leader of the Council write to the Scottish Government to make representations regarding the gaps which are arising in the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund and to request that the scheme be reviewed to address these gaps;
- (7) that a further meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee be held towards the end of July 2020 on a date to be agreed by the Convener in consultation with the Chief Executive and Head of Legal & Property Services;
- (8) that it be agreed that £80,000 be allocated from the COVID-19 budget to assist with the additional costs associated with home and flexible working;
- (9) that the closure of car parking spaces by temporary Traffic Regulation Orders be used only where officers determine that there is no detriment to trading and restrictions only be applied if necessary to facilitate social distancing and that, otherwise, temporary Traffic Regulation Orders be used only where necessary for the promotion of outdoor café culture; and
- (10) that the Chief Executive write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport relative to the current Public Health Scotland and University of Glasgow research to request that a focus be given to COVID-19 mortality in Inverclyde within that study and that if resources are required to obtain a timeous report, the Council provide funding to achieve this.

262 Financial Update, Financial Strategy 2020/30 and Unaudited Annual Accounts 2019/20

262

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing the Executive Sub-Committee with (1) an update on financial matters arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, (2) the six monthly update to the Council's Financial Strategy and (3) the Unaudited 2019/20 Annual Accounts for review by the Sub-Committee prior to their submission to Audit Scotland.

Decided:

- (1) that the latest position in respect of the financial supports provided to the Council as part of the UK and Scottish Government response to the COVID-19 pandemic be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the proposed allocation of Phase 2 of the Food Fund monies set out in Appendix 2 and the procurement of devices to support the delivery of digital inclusion in schools outlined in section 5;
- (3) that the updated Financial Strategy for the period 2020/30 be approved; and
- (4) that the Unaudited Accounts for the financial year 2019/20 be approved for onward transmission to Audit Scotland.

POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 30 JUNE 2020

- 263 COVID Mortality Report June 2020 263**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on the epidemiological review by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Public Health into the excess deaths in Inverclyde associated with COVID-19.
- Decided:** that the report and the decision to write to the Cabinet Secretary requesting an Inverclyde focus within the current Public Health Scotland and University of Glasgow research, as set out above, be noted.
- 264 COVID-19 Business Support Scheme 264**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking authority to amend on a temporary basis the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) to allow the Head of Regeneration & Planning to issue business support interventions of up to £30,000 for a period of one year until 30 June 2021.
- Decided:**
- (1) that approval be given to a temporary change to the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) to allow the Head of Regeneration & Planning to administer business support interventions of up to £30,000 for a period of one year until 30 June 2021;
 - (2) that business development support of up to £30,000 be made available to businesses which find themselves disadvantaged in eligibility for governmental support as gap funding;
 - (3) that approval be given to the transfer of £200,000 from funds held in Business Loans Scotland back to the Council for economic development interventions; and
 - (4) that a report be submitted on the outcomes achieved as a result of the implementation of the Business Support Scheme.
- 265 Freedom of Information Annual Report – 2019 265**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources providing details of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the Council during the period 1 January to 31 December 2019.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the information provided in relation to FOI requests received by the Council during 2019 be noted; and
 - (2) that future annual reports provide statistics on the various categories of FOI requesters.