

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 15 September 2020 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Property Services, Mr A Greer and Ms R McGhee (Legal & Property Services), Chief Financial Officer, ICT Service Manager, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager, Head of Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection, Interim Head of Service – Covid Response and Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

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 Committee.

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| 341 | Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | 341 |
| | <p>An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor C McEleny, with Councillor Curley substituting.</p> <p>Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:-
 Agenda Item 22 (Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor: Options Appraisal – Remit from Education & Communities Committee) – Councillors Clocherty and Robertson; and
 Agenda Item 23 (Inverclyde Leisure – Funding Requests – Remit from Education & Communities Committee) – Councillors Clocherty and Robertson.</p> | |
| 342 | COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Scrutiny Report | 342 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on relevant actions taken by Officers in order to address and mitigate the risks arising from the COVID-19 emergency.</p> <p>Decided: that the actions taken to date to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 emergency in Inverclyde be noted.</p> | |
| 343 | 2020/21 General Fund Revenue Budget at as 31 July 2020 | 343 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 31 July 2020 and (2) providing an update in respect of the position of the General Fund Reserves and the Earmarked Reserves.</p> <p>Decided:
 (1) that the latest position of the 2020/21 Revenue Budget and General Fund</p> | |

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

Reserves be noted: and

(2) that the latest costs in relation to COVID-19 be noted.

344 2020/23 Capital Programme 344

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the 2020/23 Capital Programme.

Decided: that the current position of the 2020/23 Capital Programme be noted.

345 Policy & Resources Committee 2019/20 Revenue Budget Outturn and 2020/21 Revenue and Capital Budgets – Period 4 to 31 July 2020 345

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Chief Financial Officer on the 2019/20 Revenue budget outturn, the 2020/21 projected outturn and the position of the Capital Budget as at Period 4 to 31 July 2020.

Decided:

(1) that the 2019/20 Revenue Budget outturn and the 2020/21 projected underspend of £500,000 for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 4 to 31 July 2020 be noted;

(2) that the projected 2020/21 surplus of £96,300 for the Common Good Fund be noted;

(3) that the current projected Capital position be noted; and

(4) that approval be given to the virement detailed in Section 9 of the report.

346 Debt Recovery Performance 2019/20 346

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the Council's Debt Recovery performance during 2019/20.

Decided: that the Council's Debt Recovery performance in 2019/20 be noted.

347 Customer Services - Annual Performance Report 347

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on Customer Service Centre (CSC) performance for 2019/20 and the current action plan approved as part of the 2018-21 Customer Services Strategy.

Decided:

(1) that the improved performance in terms of call answering for Revenues & Benefits and General enquiries in 2019/20 be noted and that the high level of compliments received be welcomed; and

(2) that the positive progress made in continuing to deliver the CSC action plan be noted and that it be noted that a refreshed Strategy taking on board the experience of the Covid pandemic will be presented to the Committee in September 2021.

348 Welfare Reform Update 348

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on recent developments regarding Welfare Reform.

Decided:

(1) that the updates contained in the report be noted;

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

(2) that the Convener write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer requesting that the furlough scheme be extended in a targeted way and outlining the impact on Inverclyde; and

(3) that the Convener write to the Minister of State (Department for Work and Pensions) seeking reassurance that sanctions will be applied fairly given the extraordinary circumstances currently being experienced.

349 ICT Services Performance Update

349

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) detailing ICT Services response to the COVID-19 lockdown and (2) providing updates on performance and Channel Shift statistics.

Decided:

(1) that the dedication and achievements of the ICT team throughout the Covid pandemic period to support Council Services be recognised;

(2) that the performance updates provided in the report be noted; and

(3) that approval be given to the allocation of £100,000 to support flexible and home working over coming months whilst Officers carry out a review of the current approach to home/flexible working and future office requirements.

350 Workforce Information and Activity Report (WIAR) 2019/2020

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications on key workforce information and activity for the year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Decided: that the content of the Workforce Information and Activity Report for 2019/2020 outlined in Appendix 1 be noted.

351 Corporate Services CDIP End of Year 1 Progress Report and Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans Annual Refresh

351

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (1) providing an end of year progress report on the delivery of the Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan (CDIP) improvement actions that are the responsibility of the Council's Corporate Services, as detailed in the respective CDIPs, and (2) presenting refreshed CDIP Improvement Plans for the Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Environment, Regeneration & Resources directorates, with attention drawn to the Corporate Services element of these plans.

Decided:

(1) that the progress made by the Council's Corporate Services in delivering the year 1 improvement actions, as detailed in their respective CDIPs 2019/22, be noted;

(2) that approval be given to the Corporate Services improvement actions within the refreshed Environment, Regeneration & Resources and Education, Communities & Organisational Development CDIPs; and

(3) that a report on Community Asset Transfer be submitted to the appropriate Committee.

352 Inverclyde Best Value Assurance Report Improvement Plan Progress Report and other Audit Scotland Reports

352

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive providing (1) an update on the

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

Inverclyde Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) Improvement Plan and (2) an overview of the main points from the latest Audit Scotland BVARs on Highland, Argyll & Bute and North Ayrshire Councils.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made by Inverclyde Council in regard to the BVAR improvement actions, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that Audit Scotland Best Value Assurance Reports on Highland, Argyll & Bute and North Ayrshire Councils have been published;
- (3) that it be noted that Audit Scotland's *Equal pay in Councils impact report 2020* has been published; and
- (4) that a report on how outcomes are measured be submitted to the Committee.

353 Support for Aegean Refugees – Request by Councillor McCabe 353

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a request received from Councillor McCabe that Members support in principle Europe Must Act's campaign to support Aegean refugees and that a report by Officers be submitted to the September 2020 meeting of the Council on this subject.

Decided: that support in principle be given to Europe Must Act's campaign to support Aegean refugees and that Officers submit a report on this subject to the September 2020 meeting of the Council.

354 2021/23 Budget – Current Position and Proposed Approach 354

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) updating the Committee on the current position of the 2021/23 Revenue Budget, highlighting the high degree of uncertainty around several matters, and (2) seeking approval to the approach to be taken when developing the 2021/23 budget proposals.

Decided:

- (1) that the current range of budget scenarios identified in the June Financial Strategy and the high level of uncertainty included within the range of projections be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the approach to be taken in respect of developing the 2021/23 Budget as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report; and
- (3) that the Corporate Management Team progress the development of a 2 year budget period covering 2021/23.

355 Recovery Plans – Community and Corporate 355

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) on the contents of the Community Recovery Plan and seeking approval of expenditure requirements associated with it, noting that it will be considered by the Alliance Partnership in October, and (2) seeking approval of the Corporate Operational Recovery Plan.

Decided:

- (1) that the Partnership Recovery Plan, a copy of which was appended to the report be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the expenditure of £180,000 proposed in the Partnership Recovery Plan and as set out in the report; and
- (3) that approval be given to the Corporate Operational Recovery Plan, a copy of which was appended to the report.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

- 356 Inverclyde Council Community Wealth Building Strategy 356**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) on Community Wealth Building and reviewing the types of activity considered under Community Wealth Building currently undertaken by the Council, and (2) seeking approval for a strategy to further develop Community Wealth Building within Inverclyde.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the increasing interest in Community Wealth Building be noted;
 - (2) that the current activities within the Council in respect of the five core principles of Community Wealth Building be noted; and
 - (3) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources to further develop the Community Wealth Building agenda in consultation with Partners and the community and, thereafter, to present to Members in due course the Inverclyde Council Community Wealth Building Strategy and Action Plan.
- 357 Review of Members' Support 357**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services (1) on the feedback received from the consultation exercise on Members' support and (2) seeking approval to extend the review for one year.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the feedback received from the all Members' consultation as set out in the body of the report be noted; and
 - (2) that approval be given to the extension of the review for one year to enable future planning of Member resources as a consequence of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ways of working affecting all staff and Members.
- 358 Updated Policy for the Retention and Disposal of Documents and Records Paper and Electronic 358**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services (1) providing an overview of the updated Policy for the Retention and Disposal of Documents and Records Paper and Electronic and (2) seeking approval of the updated Policy.
- Decided:** that approval be given to the updated Policy for the Retention and Disposal of Documents and Records Paper and Electronic.
- 359 Inspection by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office regarding the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 359**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services (1) providing an update on surveillance carried out by Inverclyde Council employees under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 and (2) the recent inspection by Mr Paul Donaldson, Inspector, Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office in March 2020.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Inspection Report and the positive outcome be noted;
 - (2) that reports on the application of and compliance with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 be submitted on an annual basis to the Corporate Management Team and to the Committee; and

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

(3) that the proposed steps to meet the observations made by the Inspecting Officer be noted.

360 Items for Noting 360

There was submitted a report for noting by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on activity related to Mission Clyde advising that regular updates on this activity will be submitted to Members in due course.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

361 Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor: Options Appraisal – Remit from Education & Communities Committee 361

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Education & Communities Committee of 1 September 2020 relative to the financial implications of replacing the moveable pool floor at the Waterfront Leisure Centre, Greenock.

Councillors Clocherty and Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. 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 meeting or their participation in the decision-making process.

Decided: that approval be given to the financial implications of replacing the moveable floor at Greenock Waterfront Leisure Centre the funding comprising £50,000 from the Core Property capital budget, £40,000 from Inverclyde Leisure's reserves and a loan of £235,000 from the Council to Inverclyde Leisure the terms of the loan to be determined by the Head of Legal & Property Services, the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Executive of Inverclyde Leisure and subject to approval of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure.

362 Inverclyde Leisure – Funding Requests – Remit from Education & Communities Committee

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Education & Communities Committee of 1 September 2020 relative to the provision of funding to Inverclyde Leisure.

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

Decided: that approval be given to the funding requests of £80,000 and £51,000 from Inverclyde Leisure as set out in 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 1 and 14 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act as are set opposite each item.

363 Appendix 1 relative to Agenda Item 19 comprising Inspection Report from the Investigatory Powers Commissioner 363

There was submitted Appendix 1 relative to Agenda Item 19 (Investigation by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office regarding the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000) comprising Inspection Report from the Investigatory Powers Commissioner.

Decided: that the terms of the Inspection Report be noted.