

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 29 OCTOBER 2020

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 29 October 2020 at 2pm

Present: Provost Brennan, Councillors Ahlfeld, Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Dorrian, Jackson, MacLeod, McCabe, McCormick, J McEleny, McKenzie, McVey, Moran, Murphy, 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 & Organisational Development), Chief Financial Officer, Mr M Thomson and Ms C Alderson (Finance Services), Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms S Lang and Ms D Sweeney (Legal & Property Services), Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Chief Internal Auditor, Interim Head of Service – COVID Response and Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

The meeting was held by video-conference.

445 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

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An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor C McEleny.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

446 2019/20 Annual Audit Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive appending the Annual Audit Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit for the financial year to 31 March 2020.

Mr Brian Howarth and Mr Mark Laird of Audit Scotland were present and Mr Howarth spoke to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the Annual Report to Members and the Controller of Audit for the financial year ended 31 March 2020 be endorsed and that the Action Plan in Appendix 1 of the Annual Report be approved;
- (2) that the Annual Accounts for Inverclyde Council for the financial year 2019/20 be endorsed and that approval be granted for the signing of the Accounts by the Council Leader, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer; and
- (3) that the Letter of Representation in Appendix 3 be endorsed and the signing of the letter by the Chief Financial Officer be approved.

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 the business contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

The representatives of Audit Scotland and all officers of the Council, with the exception of the Chief Executive, Head of Legal & Property Services and Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, also left the meeting at this point.

447 Interim Management Arrangements during COVID Recovery

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive seeking approval for proposed interim management arrangements to be put in place as the Council progresses through the COVID pandemic and recovery and which also take account of the recent decisions by senior officers to retire in the spring of 2021.

Following a roll call vote, the Council agreed to the interim management structure as outlined in Section 5.2 and Appendix 2 of the report and remitted it to the Head of Legal & Property Services to amend Contract Standing Orders to provide for the duties of the Corporate Procurement Manager as set out therein to be assumed by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a temporary basis pending the intended new appointment of a Corporate Procurement Manager, all as detailed in the appendix.