

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 FEBRUARY 2021**

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**Policy & Resources Committee**

**Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 4pm**

**Present:** Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, McCabe, McCormick, McKenzie (for Ahlfeld), 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, Mr A Stevenson (for Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership), Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms A Sinclair, Ms D Sweeney and Ms L Carrick (Legal & Property Services), Chief Financial Officer, Principal Revenues & Benefits Officer, Interim Head of Service, Public Protection & Covid Recovery, Team Leader Community Safety and Resilience, Team Leader Public Health and Housing Environmental & Public Protection, ICT Services Manager and Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

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

**105 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 105**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Ahlfeld, with Councillor McKenzie substituting.

Councillors Curley, Crowther and Wilson declared interests in Agenda Item 2 (Council Tax: Long Term Empty Levy – Internal Review).

**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 ground that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

**106 Council Tax: Long Term Empty Levy – Internal Review 106**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services seeking the Committee's view, in terms of its existing Long Term Empty Property and Second Homes Policy, on the outcome of the Officers' Internal Review completed for certain properties.

The following Members declared non-financial interests in this item:

Councillor Crowther as a family member owns a home that is currently empty;

Councillor Curley as a Board Member of River Clyde Homes; and

Councillor Wilson as a former Director of the Link Group.

All three 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.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed that (1) the terms of the Internal Review and the written submissions from the Property Owners be noted and that the Officers'

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interpretation and implementation of the Long Term Empty Property and Second Homes Policy for certain properties as set out in full in the Internal Review be upheld; and (2) the effectiveness of the Long Term Empty Property and Second Homes Policy be reviewed at a future meeting of the Committee following appropriate and full public consultation, all as detailed in the appendix.