

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2021

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Brooks (for Councillor Wilson), Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, McCabe, McCormick, McVey, Moran, Rebecchi and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Mr A Stevenson (for Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership), Interim Service Director Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery, Interim Service Director Environment & Economic Recovery, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Interim Head of Public Protection & Recovery, Interim Head of Legal Services, Ms D Sweeney and Ms L Carrick (Legal Services), Ms A Hunter and Ms K Barclay (Corporate Policy Officers), ICT Service Manager, 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.

134 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 134

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

Councillors Clocherty and Moran declared an interest in Agenda Item 3 (Finance Update including Capital Strategy 2021-31 and Treasury Strategy 2021/25).

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener acknowledged the national day of reflection to mark the anniversary of the United Kingdom's first COVID lockdown, and all present observed a minute's silence.

135 COVID-19 Update 135

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Environment & Economic Recovery (1) providing an update on actions taken to mitigate the risks around the COVID-19 outbreak and (2) requesting that consideration be given to expedited business and relevant updates.

During the course of discussion on this item, the Interim Head of Public Protection and Recovery provided an update on local vaccination figures, advising that as of the date of the meeting 51.2% of the Inverclyde adult population had received a first dose and 6% had received a second dose.

In relation to the item at paragraph 13.0 (Locality Planning), Councillor Robertson moved that the Committee approve ward based representation as proposed in the report, with relevant Councillors attending meetings as observers rather than ex-officio members.

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As an amendment, Councillor Brooks moved that the Committee approve the model of ward based representation and participation in meetings as detailed in the report, with relevant councillors attending meetings as ex-officio members.

Following a roll-call vote 4 Members, Councillor Ahlfeld, Brooks, McCabe and McCormick voted for the amendment and 7 Members, Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, McVey, Moran, Rebecchi and Robertson voted for the motion which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the actions taken to date to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak in Inverclyde be noted;
- (2) that the Committee notes the Annual Procurement Report 2019-20 and approves its publication on the Council website;
- (3) (a) that the information contained within the report in relation to Equalities and the publication of the Mainstreaming Report be noted and (b) that approval be given to the Proposed Equality Outcomes for 2021/25;
- (4) (a) that the extended approach to implementation of Locality Planning Groups and the consolidation of support arrangements within the Council's Community Learning & Development team be noted and (b) that ward based representation as outlined in the report be approved with relevant Councillors attending meetings as observers rather than ex-officio members; and
- (5) that the progress on the Inverclyde Jobs Recovery Plan be noted and it be remitted to Officers to provide regular update reports to the appropriate Committee on this matter.

136 Finance Update including Capital Strategy 2021/31 and Treasury Strategy 2021/25

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There was submitted a report by the Interim Service Director, Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery providing an update on a range of financial matters and seeking decisions as appropriate, specifically providing an update on the Council's Capital and Treasury Strategies which require to be considered by the Inverclyde Council.

Councillors Clocherty and Moran declared a non-financial interest in this item, all as detailed in the Appendix. Both Members 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.

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 Appendix 7 to this report on the ground that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 and 8 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

Following consideration of this item, the Committee returned to public session.

Decided:

- (1) that the projected underspends in the Policy & Resources Committee budget and 2020/21 General Fund Budget as at 31 January 2021 be noted;
- (2) that the current position of the 2020/23 Capital Programme be noted;
- (3) that the current estimated unallocated contingency of £951,000 within the COVID Fund be noted and that it be agreed that this should be retained until the situation regarding further costs and funding from COVID is clearer;

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- (4) that the purchase of the property in Kilblain Street, Greenock be approved and it be remitted to the Interim Head of Legal Services in consultation with the Interim Service Director Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery and the Interim Head of Property Services to conclude the purchase on the terms as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report, all as detailed in the Appendix;
- (5) that the following be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval:-
- (a) Capital Strategy for 2021/31;
 - (b) Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy;
 - (c) authorised limits for 2021/25;
 - (d) Treasury Management Policy Statement as detailed in paragraph 8.6 of the report;
 - (e) Policy on repayment of Loans Fund advances as detailed in paragraph 8.5 of the report;
 - (f) Treasury Policy Limits;
 - (g) Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Indicators;
 - (h) List of Permitted Investments (including those for Common Good Fund); and
- (6) that the publication of the Local Government in Scotland, Financial Overview by the Accounts Commission be noted.