

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 25 MAY 2021

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, McCabe, McCormick, McVey, Moran, Rebecchi, Robertson and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Interim Service Director Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery, Interim Service Director Environment & Economic Recovery, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Interim Head of Legal Services, Interim Head of Public Protection & Recovery, Mr A Stevenson (for Corporate Director (Chief Officer) Health and Social Care Partnership), Head of Organisational Development Policy and Communications, Mr C MacDonald and Ms L Carrick (Legal Services), Procurement & Building Services Manager, Mr R McEwan (Human Resources), Corporate Policy Manager, Ms K Barclay (Corporate Policy Officer), Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Finance Strategy), ICT Service 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.

221 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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No apologies for absence were intimated.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 2 (COVID-19 Update) – Councillor McVey.
 Agenda Item 3 (Financial Update Including ICT Strategy 2021/24 and Digital Strategy 2021/24) – Councillor Clocherty.
 Agenda Item 4 (SOLACE Improving Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2019/20) – Councillor Clocherty.
 Agenda Item 5 (Recovery Action Plans) – Councillor Clocherty.
 Agenda Item 6 (Proposals for Anti-Poverty Interventions 2021-23) – Councillor Robertson.

222 COVID-19 Update

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There was submitted a report by the Interim Service 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 & Recovery provided an update on local vaccination figures, advising that as of the date of the meeting 74% of the Inverclyde adult population had received a first dose and 43% had received a second dose.

Councillor McVey declared a financial interest in this item as a taxi operator. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting.

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Decided:

- (1) that the actions taken to date to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak in Inverclyde be noted;
- (2) that the update on the Community Renewal Fund process, and that the approval process prior to submission may be through the use of the emergency powers process, be noted;
- (3) that approval be given to an amendment to the Council's Pensions Discretions Policy to apply the available discretion to introduce a Salary Sacrifice Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme;
- (4) that the update on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy be noted; and
- (5) that the progress on the Inverclyde Jobs Recovery Plan be noted.

223 Financial Update including ICT Strategy 2021/24 and Digital Strategy 2021/24 223

There was submitted a report by the Interim Service Director, Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery (1) providing an update on a range of financial governance matters and (2) seeking decisions as appropriate, specifically in relation to the Council's ICT and Digital Strategies.

Councillor Clocherty declared a non-financial interest in this item as a member of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

- (1) that the projected underspends in the Policy & Resources Committee Budget and 2020/21 General Fund Budget as at 28 February 2021 be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the £80,000 virement from the Welfare Reforms Budget to the Anti-Poverty Budget;
- (3) that the current position of the 2020/24 Capital Programme be noted;
- (4) that the allocation of a further £771,000 towards funding the projected 2020/23 Inverclyde Leisure deficit be agreed;
- (5) that the current estimated unallocated contingency of £1,260,000 within the Covid Fund be noted;
- (6) that as part of the 2020/21 Accounts closure process approval be given to the creation of the new Earmarked Reserves as detailed in Appendix 8 of the report;
- (7) that the virement of £401,000 from the Non-Pay Inflation Contingency to the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board to meet contract inflationary increases within Elderly Care be agreed;
- (8) that approval be given to the 2021/24 ICT and Digital Strategies and it be noted that regular updates on the progress of the related Action Plans will be provided to Committee; and
- (9) that the contract award information detailed in the report and Appendices 11-13 be noted.

224 SOLACE Improving Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2019/20 224

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (1) providing an update on the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2019/20 data and (2) highlighting Inverclyde's performance across the range of indicators.

Councillor Clocherty declared a non-financial interest in this item as a member of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and

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of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

- (1) that Inverclyde Council's progress on the Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2019/20 be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed to receive a further report when the information relating to the indicators detailed in paragraph 5.4 of the report have been published.

225 Recovery Action Plans

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There was submitted a report by the Interim Service Director Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery (1) seeking approval for the proposals for funding from the Council's Recovery Fund and (2) bringing the Organisational and Partnership Recovery Action Plans to the Committee's attention.

Councillor Clocherty declared a non-financial interest in this item as a member of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals for spend against the Covid Recovery Fund detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed;
- (2) that an allocation of a further £500,000 from the Covid Fund to the Recovery Action Plans be agreed;
- (3) that approval be given to the Organisational Recovery Action Plan as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (4) that that the Partnership Recovery Action Plan detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, which will go to the June meeting of the Alliance Board, be noted.

226 Proposals for Anti-Poverty Interventions 2021-2023

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development outlining a series of proposals on the deployment of funds allocated to anti-poverty initiatives in Inverclyde.

Councillor Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Board Member of Financial Fitness and as a member of the Inverclyde Community Development Trust. She also formed the view that the nature of her interest and of the item of business did not preclude her continued presence in the meeting or her participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the proposals detailed in paragraph 5 of the report;
- (2) that approval be given to the virement of £80,000 from the Welfare Reforms budget to the Anti-Poverty budget;
- (3) that it be noted that officers will continue to develop proposals to utilise the remaining funds for Members to consider in the context of the Covid Recovery Plans;
- (4) that it be noted that regular updates on the progress of projects and the impact of the investment will be presented to the Committee; and
- (5) that it be noted that longer term proposals for the use of the recurring budget in light of any changes to Scottish Government policy/funding will be reported as part of the 2022/23 Budget.