

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 24 JUNE 2021

Policy & Resources Committee

Thursday 24 June 2021 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, McCabe, McCormick, McKenzie (for Ahlfeld), 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 (Chief Officer) Health and Social Care Partnership, Interim Head of Legal Services, Mr C MacDonald and Ms L Carrick (Legal Services), Ms T Bunton (Financial Services), ICT Service Manager, and Services 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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An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Ahlfeld, with Councillor McKenzie substituting.

Councillors Curley, McVey and Rebecchi declared an interest in Agenda Item 2 (Council Tax Appeals – Decision of the Valuation Appeals Committee).

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There was submitted a report by the Interim Service Director Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery providing an update on the outcome of two appeals considered by the Valuation Appeals Committee (VAC) in respect of properties owned by a landlord within the Clune Park Estate.

Councillors Curley, McVey and Rebecchi declared a non-financial interest as private landlords. They also formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence at 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 1 to this report on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 and 12 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

Following consideration of the appendix, the Committee returned to public session.

Decided:

(1) (a) that the outcome of the two appeals to the VAC in respect of certain properties in the Clune Park Estate be noted; and (b) that approval be given to the

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recommendation of officers not to appeal to the Inner House of the Court of Session in respect of the decision of the VAC regarding the Council Tax Long Term Empty (LTE) Levy;

(2) that approval having been given to officers not to appeal, it is noted that officers will proceed with the following: (a) the LTE levy for the properties within the Clune Park Estate owned by the successful appellant would be cancelled and the Council Tax bills for the relevant years/properties reissued; (b) any LTE levy billed in respect of properties not held by the Council within the Clune Park Estate should be cancelled and Council Tax bills for the relevant years reissued; and (c) where the Council currently owns a property within Clune Park then officers should review the application of any LTE levy recovered from former owners when the Council acquired properties and report back to the Committee with recommendations for consideration;

(3) that the timescales for the reporting and review of the current Council Tax LTE Policy be noted; and

(4) that it be noted that an update report on the future strategy for Clune Park will be presented to the August meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee.