

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 24 FEBRUARY 2022

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 24 February 2022 at 4pm

Present: Provost Brennan, Councillors Ahlfeld, Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Dorrian, Jackson, MacLeod, McCabe, McCormick, C McEleny, J McEleny, McGuire, McKenzie, McVey, Moran, Nelson, Quinn, Rebecchi and Robertson.

Chair: Provost Brennan presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance, Interim Director Environment & Regeneration, Interim Director (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Ms D Sweeney, Mr C MacDonald and Ms L Carrick (Legal Services), Ms M McCabe, Mr M Thompson and Ms A Edmiston (Finance Services), Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Interim Head of Service Public Protection & Covid Recovery, ICT Services Manager, Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety and Mr P J Coulter (Corporate Communications).

The meeting was held by video-conference.

135 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

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No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Provost referred to the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces and sought the support of Elected Members to write to the Russian Ambassador calling for an immediate halt to Russian aggression, which was unanimously agreed.

136 Approval of the 2022/23 Budget, 2022/25 Capital Programme and Approval of the Band D Council Tax for 2022/23

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It was agreed unanimously to suspend Standing Orders to allow consideration of this item following decisions of the Policy & Resources Committee on 14 September 2021 and 16 November 2021.

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance seeking approval of various matters including (1) the 2022/23 Revenue Budget and the 2022/25 Capital Programme and (2) thereafter seeking approval of the Band D Council Tax for the year 2022/23.

Prior to discussion of this item the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance advised Elected Members of a recent announcement by the Scottish Government of an £80million one-off funding grant to support economic recovery in relation to the 2021/22 financial year and that he was awaiting confirmation of the criteria and amount allocated to Inverclyde Council. He further advised that this should not impact on decisions to be taken at this meeting and that a report would be brought before Elected Members as soon as possible regarding this matter.

During discussion of this item it was noted that appendix 11 had been accidentally omitted from the document circulated prior to the meeting entitled "Alba Party 2022/23 Budget Proposal" (Appendix 1 to the Minute) and, in response to questions, the Interim

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Director Finance & Corporate Governance advised Members that the Alba Party 2023/25 Estimated Budget Gap would be a shortfall of £13.9million compared to £13.4million in the report.

Following discussion, Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Clocherty moved that the Council approve the recommendations, which achieved consensus among 20 of the 22 Councillors, as contained within the report:

- (1) that the latest update regarding the Council's Revenue and Capital Grant settlement from the Scottish Government for 2022/23 and any associated funding conditions be noted;
- (2) (a) that the adjustments and savings as detailed at appendix 3 of the report be approved;
- (b) that the 2022/23 contribution to the Integrated Joint Board as detailed at appendix 4 of the report be approved, and it be noted that this requires to be approved by the IJB when it meets on 21 March 2022;
- (c) that the 2022/25 Capital Programme as detailed at appendix 5 of the report be approved;
- (d) that (i) the write back of existing reserves to the Free Reserves as detailed in appendix 6 of the report be approved, and (ii) the use of the resulting Free Reserves as detailed in appendix 7 of the report be approved;
- (e) that it be noted that officers will process the Scottish Government £150 payment to all Band A – D households and all Council Tax Reduction recipients as soon as is practical;
- (f) that approval be given to the 2022/23 Common Good Budget as is detailed at appendix 10 to the report;
- (3) that the Council note (i) the £13.4million estimated funding gap over the period 2023/25 based on the latest assessment of financial information relating to funding and demand pressures, and (ii) that the Corporate Management Team are developing a comprehensive list of potential areas for review to be considered in the early months of the new Council post May 2022;
- (4) that a 1.95% increase in Council Tax for 2022/23 be approved; and
- (5) that the Council Tax Resolution be approved and that the level of Band D Council Tax for Inverclyde for 2022/23 be £1357.81.

As an amendment, Councillor C McEleny second by Councillor J McEleny, moved that the proposals contained within the document circulated prior to the meeting entitled "Alba Party 2022/23 Budget Proposal" ([Appendix 1 to the Minute](#)) be approved, namely alternative appendices 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 to those contained within the report;

- (a) savings/adjustments (appendix 3);
- (b) summary of changes proposed to the Capital Programme (appendix 5);
- (c) available Free Reserves (appendix 6);
- (d) proposed use of Free Reserves (appendix 7);
- (e) impact on Council Tax (appendix 8); and
- (f) funding gap reduction summary (appendix 9).

Following a roll-call vote, 2 Members, Councillors C McEleny and J McEleny, voted for their amendment, and 19 Members, Provost Brennan, Councillor's Ahlfeld, Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Dorrian, Jackson, MacLeod, McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McKenzie, McVey, Moran, Nelson, Quinn, Rebecchi and Robertson, voted for the motion which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the latest update regarding the Council's Revenue and Capital Grant settlement from the Scottish Government for 2022/23 and any associated funding conditions be noted;

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- (a) that the adjustments and savings as detailed at appendix 3 of the report be approved;
- (b) that (i) the write back of existing reserves to the Free Reserves as detailed in appendix 6 of the report be approved, and (ii) the use of the resulting Free Reserves as detailed in appendix 7 of the report be approved;
- (c) that the 2022/25 Capital Programme as detailed at appendix 5 of the report be approved;
- (d) that (i) the write back of existing reserves to the free reserves as detailed in appendix 6 of the report be approved, and (ii) the use of the resulting Free Reserves as detailed in appendix 7 of the report be approved;
- (e) that it be noted that officers will process the Scottish Government £150 payment to all Band A – D households and all Council Tax Reduction recipients as soon as is practical;
- (f) that approval be given to the 2022/23 Common Good Budget as is detailed at appendix 10 to the report;
- (3) that the Council note (i) the £13.4million estimated funding gap over the period 2023/25 based on the latest assessment of financial information relating to funding and demand pressures, and (ii) that the Corporate Management Team are developing a comprehensive list of potential areas for review to be considered in the early months of the new Council post May 2022;
- (4) that a 1.95% increase in Council Tax for 2022/23 be approved; and
- (5) that the Council Tax Resolution be approved and that the level of Band D Council Tax for Inverclyde for 2022/23 be £1357.81.