

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 22 MARCH 2022

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 22 March 2022 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance, Interim Director Environment & Regeneration, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Interim Corporate Director (Chief Officer) Health and Social Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Interim Head of Public Protection and Covid Recovery, Interim Head of Property Services, Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Mr C MacDonald and Ms D Sweeney (Legal & Democratic Services), Procurement & Building Services Manager, Ms A Hunter (Corporate Policy Officer), Ms T Bunton and M Thomson (Finance Services), ICT Services Manager, and Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

This 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.

179 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 179

No apologies for absence were intimated.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:

Agenda Item 7 (Capital Strategy 2022/32) – Councillor Curley.

Agenda Item 10 (Progress and Development of Anti-Poverty Interventions 2021-23) – Councillors Ahlfeld, J McEleny and Robertson.

180 Covid-19 Update 180

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on actions taken to mitigate the risks around the COVID-19 outbreak.

Decided:

- (1) that the actions taken to date to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak in Inverclyde be noted.
- (2) that the intention for the report to be the last such Covid Update report, subject to any significant developments in the pandemic, be noted; and
- (3) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to Martin McNab, the Interim Head of Public Protection and Covid Recovery, for his work during the pandemic as he returns to his substantive role within Inverclyde Council.

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- 181 2021/22 Revenue Budget Update 181**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising of the 2021/22 projected outturn for the Policy & Resources Committee, and (2) detailing the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at Period 10 to 31 January 2022.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the update in respect of the Policy & Resources Committee budget including the 2021/22 projected underspend of £154,000 be noted;
 - (2) that the projected 2021/22 surplus of £41,020 for the Common Good Budget be noted; and
 - (3) that the overall underspend of £1.093 million projected as at Period 10, 31 January 2022 for the General Fund, its overall Earmarked Reserves position and the position of the Free Reserves be noted.
- 182 Policy & Resources Capital Budget and 2021/24 Capital Programme 182**
- There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance providing the latest position of the Policy & Resources Capital Budget and the 2021/24 Capital Programme.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the current position of the 2021/24 Policy & Resources Capital Budget be noted; and
 - (2) that (a) the current position of the 2021/24 Capital Programme be noted; and (b) it be noted that the deficit in excess of the acceptable over commitment was addressed through the 2022/23 Budget process.
- 183 Finance Services Update 183**
- There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance providing an update on various matters within the remit of Finance Services. The Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance provided a verbal update to paragraph 6.4 of the report, noting that plans to implement ICT Service Desk opening times of 8:00 to 18:00 from the end of March 2022 are currently still being progressed.
- Decided:**
- (1) that (a) the continued good performance of the Revenues & Benefits and ICT teams, despite the extra workload taken on by both teams as a result of the response to Covid, be noted; and (b) the Committee's appreciations be conveyed to them; and
 - (2) that the content of the report be noted.
- 184 Corporate Policy and Performance Update Report 184**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development providing an update on a number of issues relating to corporate policy and performance.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the key update areas in relation to Corporate Policy and Performance be noted;
 - (2) that the Corporate Equality Outcomes Improvement Plan 2021/25 be approved;
 - (3) that it be agreed to receive annual progress reports on the delivery of the

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Corporate Equality Outcomes Improvement Plan 2021/25; and

(4) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to Andrina Hunter, Service Manager Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnerships, for her work in relation to the business of the Committee as she returns to her substantive role within Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership.

185 Capital Strategy 2022/32

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There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance appending an updated Capital Strategy as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code.

Councillor Curley declared a connection as an employee of a company mentioned in the report. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence at the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the Capital Strategy for 2022/32 be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval; and

(2) that the significant medium term financial challenges facing the Council in terms of maintaining and/or improving the assets which it owns be noted.

186 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2022/23-2025/26

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There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance seeking approval for (1) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/26, (2) Treasury Policy Limits, (3) a policy on the repayment of Loans Fund advances, (4) the Council's Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators for the next 4 years and (5) the List of Permitted Investments.

Decided: that the following be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval, all as detailed in the report:

- (a) Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy;
- (b) Authorised Limits for 2022/26;
- (c) Treasury Management Policy Statement;
- (d) Policy on repayment of Loans Fund advances;
- (e) Treasury Policy Limits;
- (f) Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Indicators; and
- (g) List of Permitted Investments (including those for the Common Good Fund).

187 Procurement Strategy 2022-25

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There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Environment & Regeneration appending the Procurement Strategy 2022-25 for review and approval.

The Interim Head of Property Services advised the Committee of typographical errors in appendix 1 of the Procurement Strategy as contained in the agenda papers and that these were corrected by the revised appendix issued to Members prior to the meeting.

Decided:

(1) that the Procurement Strategy 2022-25, including the revised appendix issued to the Committee, be noted and approved; and

(2) that it be noted that updates on progress will be provided to the Environment & Regeneration Committee as part of a 6 month Procurement update / Annual Procurement Report.

188 Progress and Development of Anti-Poverty Interventions 2021-2023 188

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on (1) the initiatives being funded from the £1.08 million Anti-Poverty Budget; and (2) the allocation of additional funding from the Council and Scottish Government, including the Winter Support Fund.

Councillor Ahlfeld declared a connection as a Member of the Board of the Inverclyde Community Development Trust. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence at the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and was declaring for transparency.

Councillor J McEleny, declared a connection as a Trustee of Homestart Inverclyde. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence at the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and was declaring for transparency.

Councillor Robertson, declared a connection as Member of the Board of Financial Fitness. She also formed the view that the nature of her connection and of the item of business did not preclude her continued presence at the meeting or her participation in the decision making process and was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of this report be noted;
- (2) that the progress made and next steps in the implementation of the initiatives from the Anti-Poverty funding be noted;
- (3) that the extension of the upper age limit to 40 years old in respect of the RISE project be approved;
- (4) that the progress in relation to the Winter Support Fund projects be noted; and
- (5) that the significant level of resources allocated from the Council Reserves to support approximately 10,000 households in the coming months be noted.

189 Community Asset Transfers – Remit from Inverclyde Council 189

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance seeking approval for a number of proposed actions, following a remit from the September 2021 meeting of Inverclyde Council, for officers to review ways to address a number of issues being experienced in relation to community leases and asset transfers.

Decided: that (1) approval be given to the Action Plan as detailed in appendix 1 of the report; and (2) that it be noted that future reports on this matter will be presented to the Education & Communities Committee.

190 Tender for a Delivery Partner for 2022/23 Energy Efficiency Scotland: Area Based Schemes 190

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval to grant delegated authority to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to accept a tender for a Delivery Partner for the 2022/23 Energy Efficiency Scotland, Area Based Schemes (ABS) Programme as per the Standing Orders for Contracts 20.3 (ii).

Decided: that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to accept the most economically advantageous tender for a Delivery Partner

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for the 2022/2023 ABS Programme, and also subject to further funding from the Scottish Government, accept the optional year extension of the Contract, as per the Standing Orders relating to Contracts 20.3 (ii).

Following the conclusion of the Committee business, Councillor McCabe expressed his thanks to officers and Members of the Committee for their support over the previous five years and extended his best wishes to them for the future.