

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 30 JUNE 2022

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 30 June 2022 at 4pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Jackson, Law, McCabe, McCormick, McCluskey, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Nelson, Reynolds, Robertson and Wilson.

Chair: Provost McKenzie 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, Mr C MacDonald, Ms D Sweeney and Ms K MacVey (Legal & Democratic Services), Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety and Mr PJ Coulter (Corporate Communications).

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Crowther and McGuire attending by video-conference.

At the commencement of proceedings it was agreed unanimously to suspend Standing Orders to allow for consideration of a Written Notice of Motion (Universal Play Schemes During the School Summer Holidays 2022) from Cllr Clocherty and Agenda Item 4 (Review of Political Decision-Making Arrangements).

319 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 319

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Quinn.

No declarations of interest were intimated but there was an intimation by Councillor Law of a connection, for the purposes of transparency in respect of:

Agenda Item 7 (Request to use the Watt Institution Trust Fund for Collections Improvements at the Watt Institution).

**Minutes of Meetings of
The Inverclyde Council, Committees, Sub-Committees and Boards**

320 Appointment Panel – Chief Officer Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership – 23 March 2022 320

Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.

321 Appointment Panel – Chief Officer Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership – 12 April 2022 321

Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.

322 General Purposes Board – 13 April 2022 322

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 30 JUNE 2022

323	Inverclyde Council – 21 April 2022	323
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe.	
324	Inverclyde Council (Statutory Meeting) – 19 May 2022	324
	Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.	
325	Audit Committee – 7 June 2022	325
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Nelson.	
326	Health & Social Care Committee – 8 June 2022	326
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Jackson.	
327	Planning Board – 9 June 2022	327
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
328	Education & Communities Committee – 14 June 2022	328
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
329	General Purposes Board – 15 June 2022	329
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
330	Environment & Regeneration Committee – 16 June 2022	330
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	
331	Policy & Resources Committee – 21 June 2022	331
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe.	
332	Local Policy & Fire Scrutiny Committee – 23 June 2022	332
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.	
333	Audit Committee (Annual Accounts) – 28 June 2022	333
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Nelson.	
334	Financial Strategy 2022/32 - Update	334

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance seeking approval for the updated Financial Strategy 2022/32.

Decided:

(1) that (a) the latest revision of the Financial Strategy be approved and (b) the estimated 2023/26 Revenue Budget funding gap based on the latest information from

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 30 JUNE 2022

the Scottish Government and assessments by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance, supported by the Corporate Management Team, be noted; and

(2) that it be noted that as part of the 2023/26 Budget all funding models will be reviewed to ensure their sustainability and that any opportunities to generate one-off or recurring savings will be reported back to the Council.

The Provost being of the opinion that the undernoted motion was relevant, competent and urgent, moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Council to consider at the earliest opportunity Councillor Clocherty's motion relating to Universal Play Schemes during the School Summer Holidays 2022. This was agreed unanimously.

335 Universal Play Schemes During the School Summer Holidays 2022 - Written Notice of Motion by Councillor Clocherty

335

There was submitted a motion by Councillor Clocherty, seconded by Councillor Brennan, in the following terms:

“Council notes the current cost of living crisis, and in light of this agrees that no charge be made for Universal Play schemes operated by Inverclyde Leisure or directly funded by the Council (including the Play4all out of school care provision) during the school summer holidays 2022. These play schemes are:

Newark, Kilmacolm, St Patricks, Aileymill, Moorfoot, Inverkip and Auchmountain run by Inverclyde Leisure; and

“This decision also includes:- Youth Connections, Craigend, Branchton and Play4all (including the Play4all out of school care provision) which receive funding from the Council.

“This decision only relates to universal play schemes and not pre-booked childcare places (extended play schemes) which are already offered free of charge at Aileymill, Newark, St. Patricks and Wellington.

“The anticipated cost of this to the Council will be in the region of £20,000, which will be funded through the Ear marked reserves allocated to the Year of the Young People Legacy fund.

“The Council delegates full authority to the Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development to implement this decision.”

The Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance provided a verbal update, advising the Committee of the current position relative to the Year of the Young Persons Earmarked Reserve, indicating that should £20,000 be used from the reserve to implement the Summer Play Scheme proposals, then £10,000 would be the remaining balance.

Decided:

(1) that the current cost of living crisis be noted;

(2) that it be agreed that no charge will be made for Universal Play Schemes operated by Inverclyde Leisure or directly funded by the Council during the summer holidays 2022, these play schemes being: Newark, Kilmacolm, St. Patricks, Aileymill, Moorfoot, Inverkip and Auchmountain run by Inverclyde Leisure, in addition to Youth Connections, Craigend, Branchton and Play4all (including the Play4all out of school care provision) which receive funding from the Council, this decision only relating to universal play schemes and not pre-booked childcare places (extended play schemes) which are already offered free of charge at Aileymill, Newark, St. Patricks and Wellington;

(3) that it be agreed that the anticipated cost of this will be in the region of £20,000, which will be funded through the earmarked reserves allocated to the Year of

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 30 JUNE 2022

the Young People Legacy fund; and

(4) that full authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development to implement this decision.

336 Review of Political Decision-Making Arrangements

336

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services seeking approval for a number of changes to the Council's political decision-making arrangements and its associated Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration.

Decided:

(1) that (a) the proposed changes to the Council's political decision-making arrangements as detailed in the report, including the proposed changes to the Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration, and the terms of reference for both the Strategic Leadership Forum and the Members Budget Working Group be approved and (b) authority be delegated to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to make any consequential changes to other constitutional documents of the Council as might be required to give effect to the decision of the Council in respect of this report; and

(2) that the proposal of no changes to be made to the current arrangements for the Education & Communities Committee, save the start time of the Committee meeting, be noted.

337 Administrative Arrangements: Cycle of Council, Committee, Sub-Committee and Board Meetings to June 2023

337

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services seeking approval for the schedule of Council, Committee, Sub-Committee and Board meetings for the period to June 2023.

The Head of Legal & Democratic Services advised the Council of a typographical error in Appendix 1 of the report, and accordingly the references to the Licensing Board being held on "Thursday 3 March – 10am" and "Thursday 2 June 2023 – 10am" should read "Thursday 2 March 2023 – 10am" and "Thursday 1 June 2023 – 10am" respectively.

Decided: that the proposed cycle of Council, Committee, Sub-Committee and Board meetings for the year to June 2023 as detailed in the report and appendix be approved subject to the correction of the typographical error which the Council had been verbally advised of.

338 Definition of Islamophobia – Request by Councillor McCabe on behalf of Muslim Engagement and Development

338

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services on a request received from Councillor McCabe on behalf of Muslim Engagement and Development in the following terms:

"Open Letter Urging Scottish Councils to Adopt the APPG Definition of Islamophobia
23 February 2022

"We, the undersigned, are calling on all city councils in Scotland to adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia and the accompanying guidelines put forward by the Coalition Against Islamophobia.

"The APPG definition states that: 'Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.'

"This definition has been adopted by all political parties in the Scottish Parliament.

"The 2021 report, 'Scotland's Islamophobia', by the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Tackling Islamophobia found that 83.4% of Scottish Muslim

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 30 JUNE 2022

respondents have experienced Islamophobia directly. Islamophobic attacks in Scotland are becoming increasingly common and serious; for example, in December of last year, a neo-Nazi was imprisoned on charges of terrorism for threatening to burn down Fife Islamic Centre.

“As per the Public Sector Equality Duty enshrined in the 2010 Equality Act, public bodies such as councils have a duty to advance equality of opportunity for members of communities with a protected characteristic. This includes Muslims, who should be able to participate in society on an equal footing with their non-Muslim counterparts.

Sadly, Islamophobia is one of the principal barriers to Muslim participation in public, economic, political, and social spheres of life and it must be urgently addressed. Without a definition of Islamophobia, policy-makers cannot identify how Islamophobia manifests itself and functions, and thus, they cannot devise meaningful strategies to address it. As such, a definition is essential.

“We therefore call on all councils in Scotland to adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia with accompanying guidelines. We firmly believe that this is a fundamental first step all councils must take to tackle the critical issue of Islamophobia in a targeted and effective manner.

“Signed: MEND (Muslim Engagement and Development), Edinburgh Central Mosque, The Mosque of The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques and Islamic Centre Of Edinburgh, Blackhall Mosque, Amal Charity (Dar Al-Arqam) Edinburgh, Masjid Salah-Aldin, Annandale Mosque, Ahl Al Bait Society Scotland, Iqra Academy Edinburgh, Idara Taleem Ul Quran Trust, Dundee Al-Makhtoum Mosque, Portobello Islamic Education Centre & Mosque, Church of Scotland, AMINA Muslim Women’s Resource Centre, Colourful Heritage, CEMVO Scotland, Interfaith Scotland, Interfaith Edinburgh, West of Scotland Regional Equality Council, Central Scotland Regional Equality Council, Edinburgh and Lothian Regional Equality Council, Central Scotland Islamic Centre, Gilded Lily, Al Masaar, My Online School, 8th Braid Salaam Scouts, Scottish Muslim Media, Radio Ramadan Edinburgh, Vibrant Scottish Mosques, North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance, Active Life Club.”

Decided: that it be agreed to adopt the UK Parliament All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslim’s definition of Islamophobia and the accompanying guidelines as detailed in appendices 1 and 2 of the report, respectively.

339

Request to use the Watt Institution Trust Fund for Collections Improvements at the Watt Institution

339

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking the Council’s approval, as Trustee of the Watt Institution Trust Fund, to use funds from the Watt Institution Trust Fund to improve the safety and security of the archival collection and the taxidermy collection at the Watt Institution.

Councillor Law declared a connection as a volunteer at the Watt Institution. She advised that she had applied the Objective Test and did not consider that she had an interest to declare, given the nature of her connection and of the item of business and she was declaring this for transparency.

Decided: that the use of £25,500 from the Watt Institution Trust Fund to improve the safety and security of collections at the Watt Institution be approved by the Council as the Trustee of the Watt Institution Trust Fund.

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 the following item on the grounds that it contained exempt

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 30 JUNE 2022

information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part I of schedule 7(A) of the Act as detailed in the relevant minute.

Appendices to Minutes

- | | | |
|------------|--|------------|
| 340 | Appointment Panel – Chief Officer Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership – 23 March 2022 | 340 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty. | |
| 341 | Appointment Panel – Chief Officer Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership – 12 April 2022 | 341 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty. | |
| 342 | General Purposes Board – 13 April 2022 | 342 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor Brooks. | |
| 343 | General Purposes Board – 15 June 2022 | 343 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran. | |
| 344 | Environment & Regeneration Committee – 16 June 2022 | 344 |
| | Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick. | |