

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 22 SEPTEMBER 2022**

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**The Inverclyde Council**

**Thursday 22 September 2022 at 4pm**

**Present:** Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Jackson, Law, McCabe, McCluskey, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Nelson, Quinn, 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, Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Ms D Sweeney, Ms L Carrick and Ms K MacVey (Legal & Democratic Services), Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, and Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

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

**434 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 434**

No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

**435 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – Request by Provost McKenzie 435**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services advising of a request received from Councillor Provost McKenzie in the following terms:

“On behalf of everyone at Inverclyde Council and the entire Inverclyde community, the Council offers its deepest condolences to the Royal Family, on the news of the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

Throughout her exceptional reign, Queen Elizabeth II was a symbol of strength, compassion and commitment.

We will remember with affection and appreciation, her lifetime of service and we join with people across the country, the Commonwealth and beyond, to mourn the loss of such a deeply respected and inspirational monarch.”

**Decided:**

- (1) that the request by Provost McKenzie as set out above be agreed; and
- (2) that the Provost’s thanks to all officers who assisted with arrangements after the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to the Leader of the Council be recorded.

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

**436 Inverclyde Council – 30 June 2022 436**

**Approved** on the motion of Provost McKenzie.

**437 General Purposes Board – 20 July 2022 437**

**Approved** on the motion of Councillor Moran.

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<b>438</b>	<b>Human Resources Appeals Board – 29 July 2022</b>	<b>438</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Brennan.	
<b>439</b>	<b>Planning Board – 3 August 2022</b>	<b>439</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
<b>440</b>	<b>Local Review Body – 3 August 2022</b>	<b>440</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
<b>441</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee – 9 August 2022</b>	<b>441</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McCabe.	
<b>442</b>	<b>Social Work &amp; Social Care Scrutiny Panel – 18 August 2022</b>	<b>442</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Jackson.	
<b>443</b>	<b>Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee – 23 August 2022</b>	<b>443</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McCabe.	
<b>444</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee – 25 August 2022</b>	<b>444</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McCormick. Councillor McCormick referred to Page 226, minute reference 379 – Port Glasgow Lower Quarter - and clarified that the decision noted includes the quadrant of land between Huntly Terrace and the Church, limited by Huntly Place.	
<b>445</b>	<b>Education and Communities Committee – 30 August 2022</b>	<b>445</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
<b>446</b>	<b>Planning Board – 7 September 2022</b>	<b>446</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Curley.	
<b>447</b>	<b>Local Review Body – 7 September 2022</b>	<b>447</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
<b>448</b>	<b>Future Delivery of Council Meetings</b>	<b>448</b>
	There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services providing the Council with proposals for the future delivery of formal Council and Committee meetings. Following discussion, Councillor Wilson seconded by Councillor Brooks moved that the recommendations detailed in the report be agreed with the exception that for meetings of quasi-judicial Boards Elected Members must be present in person, save where	

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required by law and subject to the other elements of the Council's decision on this report.

As an amendment, Councillor Brennan seconded by Councillor McCabe moved the recommendations detailed in the report.

Following a roll call vote, 3 Members, Councillors Brooks, Nelson and Wilson voted for the motion, and 19 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Jackson, Law, McCabe, McCluskey, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Quinn, Reynolds, and Robertson voted for the amendment which was declared carried.

### **Decided:**

(1) that that meetings of the Council, Committees, Scrutiny Panels, Sub-Committees and quasi-judicial Boards are all held on a hybrid basis moving forward, in accordance with the previously approved Remote and Hybrid Meeting Protocols, the exception to this being as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 23 September 2021;

(2) that public attendance be facilitated by permitting physical attendance at the same time continuing with the existing arrangements for live streaming of meetings onto YouTube, or such substitute medium at the Council might subsequently use;

(3) that, as under the current arrangements, given their particular nature, the Council continues to adopt the position that it does not live stream its quasi-judicial boards, save where required by law;

(4) that press access to Council meetings continues as it does currently, namely they have the option of attending in person or by being invited to the WebEx/Teams meeting;

(5) that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Strategic Leadership Forum, to decide whether any Council meetings should instead be held on a fully in person or fully remote basis, where it is considered appropriate, for example for public health reasons;

(6) that authority be delegated to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services in consultation with the Chair of the General Purposes Board to determine the manner in which a hearing is held in respect of civic licensing matters, in terms of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022;

(7) that the move to Microsoft Teams be noted, and that Council/committee meetings will still use WebEx for the time being, but that these will also, in due course, move over to Microsoft Teams; and

(8) that authority be delegated to the Head of Legal & Democratic services to update the previously approved Remote and Hybrid Meetings Protocols and replace references to WebEx with Microsoft Teams, and any other consequential changes from the move to Microsoft Teams.

### **449 Flag Flying Protocol**

449

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services seeking Council approval for a proposed Flag Flying Protocol, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Following discussion, Councillor Brennan seconded by Councillor Clocherty moved the recommendations detailed in the report subject to the deletion of the provision in the Flag Flying Protocol that the Council fly the Union Flag on 24 May for Empire Day, with there being no entry in respect of that day.

As an amendment, Councillor Wilson seconded by Councillor Brooks moved that the Commonwealth Flag replaces the Union Flag as the flag to be flown on 24 May for Empire Day.

On a roll call vote, 3 Members, Councillors Brooks, McCabe and Wilson voted for the amendment, and 19 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan,

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Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Jackson, Law, McCluskey, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Nelson, Quinn, Reynolds and Robertson voted for the motion which was declared carried.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Flag Flying Protocol appended to the report be approved, subject to the deletion of the provision in the Flag Flying Protocol that the Council fly the Union Flag on 24 May for Empire Day, with there being no entry in respect of that day.
- (2) that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to update the Flag Flying Protocol with the date of the Official Celebration of the birthday of His Majesty the King once known;
- (3) that the Council continues to fly the Ukrainian flag from Greenock Municipal Buildings, other than on occasions when the Flag Flying Protocol decrees another flag is to be flown, with it being delegated to the Chief Executive to keep this under review, in consultation with the Provost and the Leader of the Council, including to review the matter in 6 months' time; and
- (4) that officers consult with Ward 5 Councillors and Community Councils and report back to a future Council meeting regarding a possible alternative location for the Gourrock Municipal Buildings flag pole.

### 450 The Cost of Living Emergency – Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire

450

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services advising of the receipt of a Notice of Motion received from Councillor McGuire, countersigned by Councillor Clocherty, submitted in terms of Standing Order 22, in the following terms:

“Inverclyde Council recognises there is a cost of living emergency.

Council notes that the cost of living has increased markedly over the past year driven by the increase in the wholesale cost of oil and gas, the increase in demand following the public health emergency, market failure in the energy market and the ongoing impacts of Brexit and the war in Ukraine.

We have seen record highs and increases in the everyday essentials our constituents need. Inflation has hit a 40 year high of 10.1%; grocery prices have increased 8.8% since July; energy prices increased 54% in April - the price cap has just been increased from £1,971 to £3,549 (in October); fuel prices have increased, on average 36.5p per litre year-on-year; wages are, in real terms, 3% lower. People in Inverclyde have never had such pressure on their day-day living costs.

Inverclyde already had some of the worst poverty rates in Scotland before the current crisis began. This has never been okay but we are now facing the worst financial crisis for individuals in over 40 years. Action is needed now. Without action, people will starve or freeze to death.

The cost of living crisis is not only impacting on local households, it is also impacting significantly on the Council directly, Inverclyde Leisure, local businesses, third sector organisations and community groups.

Council notes that while the UK and Scottish Governments, and the Council itself, have been taking measures to address the impact of the cost of living more needs to be done. With the Council facing around £15m of cuts over the next two years our capacity to support the local community is extremely limited. The Council calls upon Scottish Government to ensure a real terms increase in their funding to enable the provision of lifeline community services.

Nevertheless Council instructs officers to bring forward proposals to the Policy and Resources Committee and other relevant committees as a matter of urgency on what more the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership can do to support our community through this crisis including looking at having a ‘cost of living hubs’ on their

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websites and promote this on the Inverclyde Council and HSCP websites.

Further the Council requests that the Leaders/Spokesperson of each political group agree to write jointly to the new Prime Minister and the First Minister to highlight our concerns and to ask both Governments to take immediate and decisive action to ease the cost of living impact on the Inverclyde community including reviewing the local government settlement and energy price cap.”

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire as set out above be agreed;
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to bring forward proposals to the Policy and Resources Committee and other relevant committees as a matter of urgency on what more the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership can do to support our community through this crisis including looking at having a ‘cost of living hubs’ on their websites and promote this on the Inverclyde Council and HSCP websites; and
- (3) that the Leaders/Spokesperson of each political group agree to write jointly to the new Prime Minister and the First Minister to highlight concerns and to ask both Governments to take immediate and decisive action to ease the cost of living impact on the Inverclyde community including reviewing the local government settlement and energy price cap.

### 451 Wemyss Bay Station – Request by Councillor Cassidy

451

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services advising of a request received from Councillor Cassidy in the following terms:

“Wemyss Bay station named one of the most beautiful in the world

The Council is asked to:

- (1) Welcome the news that Wemyss Bay Railway Station has been named one of the most beautiful train stations in the world, by the House & Garden List.
- (2) Notes that the station claimed 34<sup>th</sup> place out of 37 stations recognised for their architecture, that it was the only station in Scotland to feature on the list, where it was listed alongside internationally famous stations such as Amsterdam Central, New York Grand Central Station, and Kings Cross.
- (3) Understand that the Edwardian Grade A Listed building was designed by James Miller and opened in 1865 with it being completely rebuilt in 1903 by Caledonia Railway to accommodate the growing number of travellers, that between 2014 – 2016 a major refurbishment was carried out by Network Rail and Inverclyde Council to ensure it continued use into the future.
- (4) Further note that this award recognises the hard work that volunteer group Friends of Wemyss Bay Station and ScotRail station staff put into keeping the building maintained and recognises that this significant achievement will only help to increase tourism to Inverclyde by putting the area onto the world stage.”

**Decided:** that the Council agrees Councillor Cassidy’s request.

### 452 Treasury Management – Annual Report 2021/22 – Remit from the Policy & Resources Committee

452

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services on a remit from the Policy & Resources Committee of 9 August 2022 relative to the operation of the treasury function and its activities for 2021/22 as required under the terms of the Treasury Management Practice 6 (TMP6) on ‘Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements’.

**Decided:** that the operation of the treasury function and its activities for 2021/22 as required under the terms of the Treasury Management Practice 6 (TMP6) on ‘Reporting

Requirements and Management Information Arrangements' be approved.

453

### Enhanced Naloxone Action – Notice of Motion by Councillor Daisley

453

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services advising of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor Daisley, countersigned by Councillor Reynolds, submitted in terms of Standing Order 22, in the following terms as amended at the meeting:

#### **“Enhanced Naloxone Action Background Information:**

With reference to the Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel on 18/08/22, Agenda item 6, (Alcohol and Drug Partnership – Naloxone Project Phase 2), a number of actions were agreed around the distribution of Take Home Naloxone kits (THN) in Inverclyde.

The recently published final report from the National Drug Death Taskforce states:

*“The evidence is clear that wider distribution and training in how and when to administer Naloxone saves lives. Expanding the distribution of Naloxone would increase its coverage, meaning it is more likely to be available in the event of an opioid overdose. Expansion would also spread awareness of harm-reduction advice through Take Home Naloxone (THN) programmes. Pathways could help guide people into appropriate treatment and support. Mainstreaming the availability of Naloxone would help to reduce harmful stigma around problematic substance use and ensure it is seen in parity with other health conditions.”*

The Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel approved the report that was brought forward, and in doing so agreed with the proposals that:

1. Naloxone training is to be made available to HSCP and Inverclyde Council staff. Attendance would be on a voluntary basis. On completing the training every participant will be offered a Naloxone kit for use in emergencies only (i.e. not for distribution). Staff would have the choice whether they would take a Naloxone kit or not.
2. The training is evaluated and feedback from this will help Inverclyde ADP to develop this programme further.
3. Naloxone to be included in all HSCP and customer facing Council Services first aid kits. This is in recognition that, along with other critical public sector services, HSCP and Council staff also have a critical role in ensuring staff are equipped to provide an appropriate response to anyone experiencing a near fatal overdose in or in the vicinity of a Council or HSCP building.

Uptake numbers from the last 3 years are as below:

Target 2019/20	Actual kits Supplied 2019/20	Target 2020/21	Actual Kits Supplied 2020/21	Target 2021/22	Actual kits Supplied to date in 2021/22
210	145 69%	580	147 25%	580	74 12%

Our kit uptake target for 2021/22 was not achieved, and we remain one of the worst local authorities in Scotland for drug deaths.

Motion:

1. Council agrees that positive movements in Naloxone uptake are underway.
2. Council takes the official position that we must actively encourage and support the uptake of Naloxone training and rollout in Inverclyde.
3. Council agrees the following actions
  - a. Our staff and trade union partners are consulted on whether Naloxone training should become mandatory for relevant HSCP staff (being those staff identified by the

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Chief Officer HSCP) rather than voluntary, with all Inverclyde Council staff offered training on a voluntary basis. Training and support will also be targeted at local businesses, including licensed premises and taxi firms.

b. The carrying of Take Home Naloxone (THN) kit remains voluntary, although strongly encouraged as a culture within Inverclyde Council.

c. That Naloxone training is made available to all elected members on a voluntary basis. As leaders in our communities, it is vital that elected members lead by example, and this will support Council officers to highlight to third party organisations and the overall community, the strategic significance of these lifesaving kits, and support the aim of reducing stigma around problematic substance abuse.

d. That the Council writes to the Chair of the Integration Joint Board, seeking confirmation that regular reports on THN kit uptake are provided in IJB performance reporting with annual reporting from the Alcohol & Drug Partnership on uptake also going to the Alliance Board and Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel for noting, with the ultimate aim to be the agreed annual target of 580 being significantly exceeded by year end, through a successful period of engagement, training and supplying of THN kits to relevant individuals, families and 3rd sector organisations.”

The Council agreed to suspend Standing Orders in order to consider the Motion, given the terms of the decision on the Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel on 18 August 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 5.50pm and reconvened at 5.55pm.

### **Decided:**

(1) that the Notice of Motion by Councillor Daisley as amended at the meeting and set out above be agreed with the insertion of the words “in the future” in sub-paragraph 3a of the Motion after the words “should become mandatory”;

(2) that (a) it be remitted to officers to consult with staff and trade union partners on whether Naloxone training should become mandatory in the future for relevant HSCP staff, being those staff identified by the Chief Officer HSCP, rather than voluntary, (b) all Inverclyde Council staff are to be offered training on a voluntary basis, and (c) training and support will also be targeted at local businesses, including licensed premises and taxi firms;

(3) that the carrying of Take Home Naloxone (THN) kit remains voluntary, although strongly encouraged as a culture within Inverclyde Council;

(4) that it be remitted to officers to make Naloxone training available to all Elected Members on a voluntary basis; and

(5) that (a) the Council writes to the Chair of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board (IJB) seeking confirmation that regular reports on THN kit uptake are provided in IJB performance reporting, and (b) an annual report is provided by the Alcohol & Drug Partnership on THN kit uptake to the Alliance Board and Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel for noting.

**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 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**

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- 455     **Human Resources Appeals Board – 29 July 2022**     455  
       **Approved** on the motion of Councillor Brennan.
- 456     **Environment & Regeneration Committee – 25 August 2022**     456  
       **Approved** on the motion of Councillor McCormick.