

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 15 DECEMBER 2022

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 15 December 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, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Ms D Sweeney, Ms L Carrick and Ms K MacVey (Legal & Democratic Services), Ms A Bell (Finance Services) and Mr PJ Coulter (Corporate Communications).

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

594 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 594

No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

595 2023/25 Budget Update & Proposals 595

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance (1) providing an update in respect of the 2023/25 Revenue Budget, 2023/26 Capital Programme and earmarked reserves, and (2) seeking approval for a number of savings/adjustments whilst outlining the post Christmas break activity relating to the budget.

The Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance provided a verbal update advising that the Draft Scottish Budget, which contains the Local Government Settlement, expected on 15 December 2022 had not yet been announced.

Councillor Nelson joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals to reduce the funding gap, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be approved;
- (2) that (a) after considering the views expressed in the Public Consultation and having due regard to the implications of the same, as detailed at section 5 of the report, the proposed savings detailed at appendix 2 of the report be approved, and (b) it be noted that any further savings required to balance the 2023/24 Budget will be considered at the Council Tax setting/Budget meeting of the Council;
- (3) that the remaining estimated 2023/25 Funding Gap, as detailed at appendix 3 of the report, be noted;
- (4) that (a) the write backs from earmarked reserves totalling £1.460million, as detailed in appendix 4 of the report, be noted, (b) it be agreed that officers will report back to the Environment & Regeneration Committee on the proposals for the use of the unallocated Repopulation and Business Support funding, (c) the latest projected unallocated reserves balance be noted, and (d) the use of Reserves, as detailed in paragraph 5.2 of the report, be approved;
- (5) that (a) the further increase of £270,000 in the 2023/24 Inverclyde Leisure funding

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 15 DECEMBER 2022

pressure due to recently advised further increases in utility costs be approved, and (b) it be noted that the savings options prepared by officers relating to services delivered by Inverclyde Leisure, as detailed in appendix 5 of the report, will be subject to Public Consultation in January 2023;

(6) that it be noted that the Policy & Resources Committee will consider the impact of the Scottish Government Draft Budget and a proposal in relation to the Council's Service Concession (PPP) accounting at its meeting on 31 January 2023;

(7) that it be agreed that a special meeting of the Council to approve the 2023/24 Budget, 2023/26 Capital Programme and to approve the level of Band D Council Tax for 2023/24 will be held on 2 March 2023; and

(8) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to re-schedule the meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee, currently scheduled for 2 March 2023, in consultation with the Convenor of the Environment & Regeneration Committee and relevant officers.