

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 20 APRIL 2023

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 20 April 2023 at 4pm

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

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Martin McNab	Public Protection Manager
Morna Rae	Service Manager (Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnerships)
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications

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

209 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 209

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Law and Nelson.

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

Agenda Item 6 (Amendments to the Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration) – Councillors Clocherty, Curley and McVey.

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

210 Inverclyde Council – 16 February 2023 210

Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.

211 Audit Committee – 21 February 2023 211

Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.

212 General Purposes Board (Special) – 22 February 2023 212

Approved on the motion of Councillor Curley.

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213	Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel – 23 February 2023	213
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Jackson.	
214	Planning Board – 1 March 2023	214
	Approved on the motion of Curley.	
215	Local Review Body – 1 March 2023	215
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
216	Inverclyde Council (Special) – 2 March 2023	216
	Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.	
217	Education & Communities Committee – 7 March 2023	217
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
218	General Purposes Board – 8 March 2023	218
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
219	Environment & Regeneration Committee – 9 March 2023	219
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	
220	Petitions Committee – 16 March 2023	220
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Curley.	
221	Policy & Resources Committee – 21 March 2023	221
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe.	
222	Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel – 23 March 2023	222
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.	
223	Education & Communities Committee (Special) – 27 March 2023	223
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
224	General Purposes Board – 12 April 2023	224
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
225	Environment & Regeneration Committee (Special) – 17 April 2023	225
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	

226 Council Plan and Partnership Plan from 2023 226

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) proposing the vision and high-level outcomes for the Inverclyde Council Plan 2023-28, and (2) seeking endorsement of the new Alliance Partnership Plan 2023-33.

Decided:

- (1) that the vision and high-level outcomes for the Inverclyde Council Plan 2023-28 be agreed; and
- (2) that the vision and high-level outcomes for the Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023-33 be endorsed.

227 Appointment of Chair of Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel 227

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting that the Council (1) appoints a Chair for the Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel, (2) confirms the Special Responsibility Allowance currently allocated to that position, and (3) appoints two further appointments associated with the Chair of the Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel, namely to the Inverclyde Alcohol and Drugs partnership and as a proxy for Councillor Moran on the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board.

Decided:

- (1) that (a) Councillor Brennan be appointed as Chair of the Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel, and (b) the Special Responsibility Allowance allocated to that position be confirmed; and
- (2) that accordingly Councillor Brennan be appointed to the Inverclyde Alcohol and Drugs partnership and as the proxy for Councillor Moran on the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board.

228 Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) 228

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting that the Council (1) consider proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegation (Officers), and (2) notes other amendments which have been made in the implementation of recent Council decisions, all as detailed in the revised Scheme of Delegation (Officers) document appended to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) be amended so that authority is delegated to officers to carry out the Council's powers, rights and duties under The Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2002 and any regulations made thereunder, this amendment as detailed in tracked changes on page 37 of appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) that the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) be amended to the effect that where there are no maintained objections to any Speed Limit Order, the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services would be authorised to make such a Speed Limit Order on behalf of the Council, this amendment as detailed in tracked changes on page 28 of appendix 1 to the report;
- (3) that the amendments made by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) under authority delegated from several recent Council decisions be noted, all as detailed at paragraphs 3.8 to 3.16 of the report and shown in tracked changes in appendix 1 to the report;

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(4) that the other amendments made to the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) be approved, all as detailed at paragraphs 3.17 to 3.19 of the report and shown in tracked changes in appendix 1 to the report; and

(5) that it be noted that it is the intention of the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to undertake a full review of the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) and provide a report to a future meeting of the Council later in 2023, with approval of the amendments in respect of this report being subject to that future review.

229 Amendments to the Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration

229

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting that the Council (1) consider proposed amendments to the Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration, and (2) note other amendments which have been made in the implementation of recent Council decisions, all as detailed in the revised Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration document appended to the report.

Decided:

(1) that (a) the Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration be amended with regard to the way in which the Council considers concerns that have been raised in respect of the suitability of private residential landlords under the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, together with the dissolution of the Housing (Landlord Registration) Sub-Committee, and (b) the current Elected Member appointments to the said Sub-Committee be cancelled, all as detailed in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.10 of the report and shown in tracked changes in the relevant sections of appendix 2 to the report;

(2) that the amendments made to the Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services be approved, which include the implementation of several recent Council decisions, as detailed in paragraphs 3.11 to 3.15 of the report and shown in tracked changes in the relevant sections of appendix 2 to the report; and

(3) that it be noted that it is the intention of the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to undertake a full review of the Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration and provide a report to a future meeting of the Council later in 2023, with approval of the amendments in respect of this report being subject to that future review.

230 Council Timetable Change – Audit Committee

230

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services seeking agreement to reschedule the June 2023 meeting of the Audit Committee for operational purposes.

Decided: that it be agreed to reschedule the meeting of the Audit Committee from 3pm on Thursday 22 June 2023 to 3pm on Thursday 29 June 2023.

231 20mph Town & Village Centre Speed Limit Orders – Maintained Objections – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee

231

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 9 March 2023 relative to the making of Speed Limit Orders associated with Kilmacolm, Port Glasgow, Gourrock and the Cathcart Street area of Greenock.

Decided:

(1) that the making of the following Speed Limit Orders be approved (a) “The Inverclyde Council Kilmacolm Village Centre (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2022”, (b) “The Inverclyde Council Port Glasgow Town Centre (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2022”, (c)

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“The Inverclyde Council Cathcart Street and Adjoining Roads, Greenock (20 mph Speed Limit) Order 2022”, and (d) “The Inverclyde Council Gourock Town Centre (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2022”; and

(2) that it be remitted to the Shared Head of Roads and Environmental Services and the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to take all necessary action to implement the said Speed Limit Orders.

232 Capital Strategy 2023-2033 and Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24-2026/7 – Remit from Policy & Resources Committee 232

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on a remit from the Policy & Resources Committee of 21 March 2023 relative to (a) Capital Strategy 2023-2033, and (b) Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24-2026/27.

Decided:

(1) that the 2023-2033 Capital Strategy be approved; and

(2) that the Treasury Management Statement & Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24-2024/27 be approved.

233 Single Use Nicotine Vaping Products (Disposable Vapes) – Request by Councillor McCabe 233

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of a request received from Councillor McCabe in the following terms, as amended at the meeting:

“Disposable Vapes

Inverclyde Council notes with concern the serious and damaging environmental impacts of disposable vapes and recognises an increase in these electronic devices being discarded in communities and public spaces across the Inverclyde Council area.

Research by Material Focus, an independent not-for-profit organisation, identified in 2022 that at least 1.3million so called ‘disposable’ vapes are littered and binned each week.

It is noted that vapes contain a range of precious materials, including lithium and copper, which can be collected if recycled in a safe and appropriate manner.

Inverclyde Council further anticipates the publication of the Scottish Government’s urgent review into the environmental impact of disposable vapes, currently being undertaken by Zero Waste Scotland.

In light of the serious nature of these concerns, Council instructs the Director of Environment & Regeneration to write on behalf of Inverclyde Council to Lorna Slater, Scottish Government Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, convey Inverclyde Council’s view that actions to mitigate their harmful effects be introduced across the UK as soon as practicable and that the minister leads the negotiations with the other devolved administrations and the UK Government.”

Decided:

(1) that the request by Councillor McCabe’s as set out above and amended at the meeting be agreed; and

(2) that it be remitted to the Director of Environment & Regeneration to write on behalf of Inverclyde Council to Lorna Slater, Scottish Government Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity in the above terms.

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Private Appendices to Minutes

234	General Purposes Board – 8 March 2023	234
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
235	Environment & Regeneration Committee – 9 March 2023	235
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	
236	General Purposes Board – 12 April 2023	236
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 21 APRIL 2023

General Purposes Board

Friday 21 April 2023 at 10am

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Crowther, Curley, Moran, McCluskey and Quinn.

Chair: Councillor Moran presided.

In attendance:

David Keenan	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Fiona Denver	Senior Paralegal Licensing Officer

In attendance also: Sergeant F Moore-McGrath (Police Scotland).

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

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Board.

237 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 237

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Reynolds and Wilson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

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 the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

238 Request for Suspension of Taxi Driver's Licence 238

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to (1) uphold the suspension of a Taxi Driver's Licence, and (2) consider whether or not to further suspend the licence as the Board may determine.

Decided: that the Board (1) upheld the decision to suspend the licence, and (2) removed the suspension with immediate effect and reinstated the licence, all as detailed in the Appendix.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 25 APRIL 2023

Audit Committee

Tuesday 25 April 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Crowther, Curley, McCabe, McCluskey, Brennan (for McCormick), McGuire, McVey, Nelson, Reynolds and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Nelson presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP)
Andi Priestman	Chief Internal Auditor
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Gerard Smith	Capital Assets Principal Accountant
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Siobhan MacMaster	Solicitor, Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Michael Wilkie	Director KPMG

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

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.

- 239 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 239**
- An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McCormick, with Councillor Brennan substituting.
- No declarations of interest were intimated.
- 240 Internal Audit Progress Report – 30 January 2023 to 31 March 2023 240**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services appending the monitoring report in respect of Internal Audit activity for the period 30 January 2023 to 31 March 2023.
- Decided:** that the progress made by Internal Audit in the period from 30 January to 31 March 2023 be noted.
- 241 External Audit Action Plans – Current Actions 241**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on the status of current actions from External Audit Action Plans as at 31 March 2023.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 25 APRIL 2023

Decided: that the progress to date in relation to the implementation of external audit actions be noted.

242 Internal Audit Annual Strategy and Plan 2023-24 242

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services presenting for approval the Internal Audit Annual Strategy and Plan for 2023-2024.

Decided: that approval be given to the Internal Audit Annual Strategy and Plan for 2023-2024.

243 Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 – Update on Improvement Actions 243

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on the status of improvement actions arising from the Council's 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement.

Decided: that the progress to date in relation to the implementation of the improvement actions identified in the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement be noted.

244 CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance – 2022 Update 244

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising Members of the results of the self-assessment exercise in relation to the updated CIPFA guidance for Audit Committees within Local Authorities and the improvement actions identified, as appended to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the results of the self-assessment exercise carried out by Audit Committee members in relation to the updated CIPFA guidance for Audit Committees be noted; and
- (2) that the resulting improvement plan be approved.

245 National Fraud Initiative Exercise 2022-23 - Update 245

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on the current position with regard to the National Fraud Initiative in Scotland 2022/23 exercise.

Decided: that (a) the contents of the report be noted and agree that further updates are provided to the Audit Committee as part of the Internal Audit Progress report outlining the Council's progress with the 2022-2023 exercise, and (b) that it be noted that the results of the 2022-2023 exercise will be reported to the February 2024 Audit Committee.

246 Indicative External Audit Plan for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 246

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer presenting the Indicative External Audit Plan for the year ended 31 March 2023 to allow the Audit Committee to review it and seek clarification from the External Auditors, KPMG, on any matters contained in the plan.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the Indicative External Plan for the year ended 31 March 2023 be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the final version of the Plan will be presented to the Committee on 29 June 2023.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 25 APRIL 2023

At the conclusion of business, the Convener on behalf of the Committee thanked Michael Wilkie, Director KPMG for attending the meeting.

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 27 APRIL 2023

Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 27 April 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Curley (for Daisley), Jackson, McCluskey, Quinn, Reynolds and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor Brennan presided.

In attendance:

Kate Rocks	Chief Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP)
Anne Sinclair	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Allen Stevenson	Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Health & Community Care (Inverclyde HSCP)
Jonathan Hinds	Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services (Inverclyde HSCP)
Gail Kilbane	Interim Head of Mental Health, Alcohol & Drugs Recovery and Homelessness Services (Inverclyde HSCP)
Audrey Howard	Interim Head of Justice & Children's Services (Inverclyde HSCP)
Gail Hughes	Interim Service Manager for Justice Social Work (Inverclyde HSCP)
Marie Keirs	Senior Finance Manager (Inverclyde HSCP)
Arlene Mailey	Service Manager, Quality & Development Service (Inverclyde HSCP)
Ian Hanley	Community Justice Lead Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Provost McKenzie, and Councillors Curley and Quinn attending by video-conference.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Panel.

247 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

247

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Daisley, with Councillor Curley substituting.

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

Agenda item 8 (Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations) – Councillors Cassidy and McCluskey.

Prior to the commencement of business the Convenor extended her best wishes, on behalf of the Panel, to Mr Stevenson as this was his last meeting prior to leaving on secondment to NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board.

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 27 APRIL 2023

248	Revenue & Capital Budget Report – Revenue Outturn Position as at 28 February 2023	248
	<p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership and the Head of Finance, Planning & Resources, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, on the projected outturn on revenue and capital for 2022/23 as at 28 February 2023.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the projected current year revenue outturn of a £2.012million underspend at 28 February 2023, as detailed at paragraphs 4.1 to 4.12 of the report, be noted;</p> <p>(2) that the projected capital position, as detailed at paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3 of the report, be noted;</p> <p>(3) that the current earmarked reserves position, as detailed at paragraphs 6.1 to 6.4 of the report, be noted; and</p> <p>(4) that the recommendation to the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board to earmark the underspends, as detailed at section 4 of the report, be noted.</p>	
249	National Care Service Update	249
	<p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing the Panel with an update on implementation of the National Care Service (NCS).</p> <p>Decided: that the correspondence dated 17 April 2023 from the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, as appended at appendix 1 to the report, be noted.</p>	
250	Inspection of Children’s Residential Care Homes – Crosshill	250
	<p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising the Committee of the outcomes of the Care Inspectorate’s unannounced inspection in respect of Crosshill Children’s Residential Care Home Services on 19 December 2022.</p> <p>Decided: that the outcome of the inspection be noted.</p>	
251	Inverclyde HSCP Strategic Plan 2023-24	251
	<p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance, Planning and Resources Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership appending (1) the final HSCP Transition Plan progress update, (2) the refreshed HSCP Strategic Plan, and (3) associated Outcomes Framework for 2023-24 for noting.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the final 2021-23 Transition Plan progress update be noted;</p> <p>(2) that the engagement and consultation that has shaped the refresh of the Strategic plan be noted;</p> <p>(3) that the refreshed Strategic Needs Assessment be noted; and</p> <p>(4) that the refreshed Strategic Plan and Outcomes framework for 2023-24 be noted.</p>	
252	Care at Home Review	252
	<p>It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.</p>	

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 27 APRIL 2023

253 Community Payback Orders- Inverclyde Annual Report 2021-22 and Summary of Local Authority Annual Reports 2021-22 253

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising the Committee of (1) the submission of the Inverclyde Community Payback Order Annual Report 2021-23 to the Scottish Government, and (2) the publication of the Summary of Local Authority Annual Reports 2021-22 by Community Justice Scotland, copies of which were appended to the report.

Decided: that (1) the submission of the Inverclyde Community Payback Order Annual Report 2021-23 to the Scottish Government, and (2) the publication of the Summary of Local Authority Annual Reports 2021-22 by Community Justice Scotland be noted.

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 the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

254 Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations 254

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on matters relating to the Health & Social Care Partnership governance processes for Externally Commissioned Social Care Services.

Councillor Cassidy declared a connection in this item as a family member is on the Board of an organisation mentioned within the report and Councillor McCluskey declared a connection as a family member is in a care home mentioned within the report. Both Councillors also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the governance report for the period 21 January to 24 March 2023 be noted; and

(2) that Members acknowledge that officers regard the control mechanisms in place through the governance meetings and managing poorly performing services guidance within the Contract Management Framework is sufficiently robust to ensure ongoing quality and safety and the fostering of a commissioning culture of continuous improvement.

PLANNING BOARD – 3 MAY 2023

Planning Board

Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan (for McGuire), Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Jackson, McCabe, McVey and Robertson (for Law).

Chair: Councillor McVey.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director, Environment & Regeneration
Gordon Leitch	Supervisory Engineer – Roads Design
Jim Kerr	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Communications Officer (Media Relations) (for Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety)

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

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Board.

255 APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 255

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McGuire, with Councillor Brennan substituting and Councillor Law, with Councillor Robertson substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

256 PLANNING APPLICATIONS 256

(a) To construct and operate a small scale hydro-electric scheme with storage on the Kip Water Kip Water Hydro Scheme, Inverkip (18/0290/IC)

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration to construct and operate a small scale hydro-electric scheme with storage on the Kip Water at Kip Water Hydro Scheme, Inverkip (18/0290/IC).

After discussion, Councillor Brooks moved that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions contained in the report.

As an amendment, Councillor Curley moved that planning permission be refused on the grounds of insufficient community benefit.

Following a roll call vote, 2 Members, Councillors Curley and Daisley voted in favour of the amendment and 9 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Jackson, McCabe, McVey and Robertson voted in favour of the motion which was declared carried.

Decided: that planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:-

(1) that the development to which this permission relates must be begun within 3 years from the date of this permission, to comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended);

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(2) that no development shall commence on site until an updated Construction Management Plan (CMP) which sets out how the construction phase of the development will be managed. This shall be submitted to and be approved in writing by the Planning Authority in consultation with NatureScot. The Plan shall include:

- a) Detailed construction methods for all aspects of the scheme (temporary access tracks, permanent tracks, site compounds, intakes, pipeline, tailrace, outfall, powerhouse, culverts);
- b) Schedule of mitigation
- c) Pollution prevention safeguards and sedimentation safeguards;
- d) Storage and disposal of materials;
- e) Construction site facilities including the location of construction site huts, vehicle equipment, materials storage and location of parking area(s) for construction workers;
- f) Duration, timing and phasing of works;
- g) The width of the working corridor that construction works will be confined to (shown on a plan);
- h) Detailed habitat mitigation and restoration targets;
- i) Peat management plan addressing the following:
 - i) Treatment and management of peats and turves;
 - ii) A commitment to all construction activity ceasing immediately if deep peat is discovered;
 - iii) On site storage options to ensure any peat is kept dry;
 - iv) Details of proposed on site and off site use;
 - v) A commitment that SEPA will be contacted to obtain an appropriate level of waste management authorisation as required.
- j) Management and protection proposals for trees inclusive of tree root protection
- k) Core path restoration methods and specification;
- l) Protected species mitigation including inclusive of the provision of Species Protection Plans as required, the provision of temporary ramps in trenches and the capping of pipes at the end of a working day;
- m) Details of toolbox talk for protected species to ensure all personnel are aware of what to do should evidence of species be discovered during construction of the hydro scheme;
- n) Traffic management proposals to minimise any conflict between construction vehicles and other road users; and;
- o) Hours of operation on site.

The CMP shall be implemented as approved unless otherwise agreed in advance in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure that full detailed information is provided in respect of the construction of the development in the interests of protecting and minimising the impact on the environment and surrounding area;

(3) that prior to the commencement of works on site a Landscape Restoration Plan along the entire route shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Planning Authority in consultation with NatureScot. The Plan shall detail proposals for the reinstatement and management of all areas of the scheme and shall include a turve management plan. The details to be provided shall require the pipeline route to be exposed in short sections only (to be defined and agreed) and turves associated with the construction of the pipeline shall be stored for a maximum of two weeks. The Landscape Restoration Plan shall be implemented as approved within a timescale agreed with the Planning Authority, to ensure that full detailed information is provided in respect of landscape mitigation and restoration in the interests of protecting and minimising the impact on the landscape and surrounding area;

(4) that prior to the commencement of works on site a detailed Aftercare Monitoring and Management Plan shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Planning

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Authority in consultation with NatureScot. The plan shall detail all aspects of the aftercare monitoring and management of the application site for a minimum of five years and shall include provision for an extension to this period should monitoring indicate that habitat recovery is slower than predicated, to ensure appropriate monitoring and management of the aftercare of the site in respect of ensuring the restoration of the landscape and habitat recovery;

(5) that unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority, all construction activities shall be completed within a 24 month period taken from the start date provided to the Planning Authority in accordance with the Commencement of Development Form and having regard to any other limitations on work periods set out in any other planning condition, to ensure the development is implemented and constructed in one continuous phase and within an acceptable timescale in the interests of protecting and minimising the impact on the environment and surrounding area;

(6) that no works shall be undertaken on the section of pipeline to be installed between the Daff Reservoir intake and a point level with the upper edge of Leapmoor Forest during the bird breeding season (April to July inclusive). Prior to the commencement of works on site, a plan setting out the extent of the proposed 'no work area' must be submitted and agreed in writing by the Planning Authority in consultation with NatureScot. The plan shall then be followed during the implementation of the development, in the interest of protecting breeding hen harriers;

(7) that development shall not commence until details of a survey for the presence of non-native invasive species shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority and that, for the avoidance of doubt; this shall contain a methodology and treatment statement where any is found. Development shall not proceed until appropriate control measures are implemented. Any significant variation to the treatment methodology shall be submitted for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation, to help arrest the spread of non-native invasive species in the interests of environmental protection;

(8) that development shall not commence until details of a bond or other financial provision to cover the completion of the restoration works together with any failure of the restoration works or in the aftercare arrangements associated with the site restoration and the decommissioning of the above ground infrastructure shall be agreed in writing the Planning Authority. As part of this agreement the applicant shall set out how the approved bond or other financial provision is maintained throughout the duration of this consent and that it will be subject to a five yearly review, to be conducted by a competent independent professional, to ensure that sufficient funds are in place to cover the completion of the restoration works together with any failure of the restoration works or in the aftercare arrangements associated with the site restoration and the decommissioning of the above ground infrastructure in the interests of protecting and minimising the impact on the environment and surrounding area;

(9) that development shall not commence until a detailed Public Access Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The Plan shall include:

- a) All existing access points, paths, core paths, tracks, rights of way and other routes within and adjacent to the application site;
- b) exact timings, impacts and mitigation for all site vehicle movements and works affecting the Core Path. Works directly affecting the Core Path route shall be programmed to minimise disturbance during peak walking seasons/weekends/days;
- c) Use of banksmen to manage the safe passage of users;
- d) A mitigation communication strategy - local press, businesses and community groups informed of construction operation timetables and likely disturbance to path usage;
- e) Advisory construction warning signage strategy.

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The Public Access Management Plan shall be implemented as approved, in order to safeguard public access both during and after the construction phase of the development;

(10) that development shall not commence until full details of the design, layout, positioning and appearance of the final specification of the pipe bridge shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Planning Authority. Works shall then proceed as approved unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure an appropriate design of pipe bridge in the interests of minimising the impact on landscape and visual amenity;

(11) that development shall not commence until samples of all external materials to the powerhouse and switchroom shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure the external materials to be used are appropriate for the proposed buildings, in the interests of visual amenity;

(12) that no works shall commence on the construction of the powerhouse or switchroom until a scheme of hard and soft landscaping works for the site of the powerhouse and switchroom has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The approved landscaping scheme shall be implemented in full prior to the development hereby permitted being brought into use. Any trees or plants which die, are removed, damaged or become diseased within five years of completion of the landscaping shall be replaced within the following year with others of a similar size and species, to ensure the provision and retention of appropriate landscaping works around the buildings, in the interests of visual amenity;

(13) that development shall not commence until a scheme of tree planting along the route of the development has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority. The details to be submitted shall include the species and locations of the trees as well as details of the phasing. The approved planting shall thereafter take place during the first planting season following completion of the development. Should the planting fail or not become established within 5 years of planting replacement trees shall be planted within the first planting season thereafter and shall be confirmed in writing with the Planning Authority, to ensure tree planting is carried out to lessen the visual impact of the development;

(14) that no trees shall be lopped or felled within or adjacent to the application site unless agreed in advance in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure the retention and protection of trees in the interests of protecting and minimising the impact on the landscape and protected species;

(15) that development shall not commence until until an independent full time Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) has been appointed by the developer, at their expense, to oversee the implementation of the relevant planning conditions and the Construction Management Plan (CMP) during the detailed design, construction, and restoration phases of the development, to ensure that all agreed methodology and mitigation in respect of the construction are implemented in the interests of protecting and minimising the impact on the environment and to ensure compliance with protected species legislation and ecological good practice;

(16) that prior to appointing the ECoW in accordance with Condition 13 above, a 'scope of works' for that person shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Planning Authority. As a minimum, the ECoW shall: be present to oversee all in-stream construction works; give advice on micro-siting project elements to protect trees and avoid important habitats, give Ecological 'toolbox talks' on emergency procedures if protected species are identified within or close to the construction corridor; ensure compliance with all wildlife legislation; undertake pre-construction checks for protected species (mammals, fish and birds); oversee implementation of all ecological mitigation, as detailed in the approved CMP; monitor restoration of the site and ensure that the agreed habitat restoration targets are achieved; and have the authority, on and off-site,

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to halt operations or to alter construction methods if they observe, monitor or otherwise identify that these operations are having adverse impacts on the natural heritage. The Scope of Works shall specify the stages of the process that the ECoW will be present on site for and how regularly they will otherwise inspect the site. All works shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed scope of works to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, to ensure the agreement of the role and scope of works of the ECoW;

(17) that development shall not commence until detailed species and habitat surveys together with protection plans as required shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The surveys and protection plan shall include the following:

- a) Further badger surveys together with the provision of a species protection plan should the presence of badgers or the potential for the presence of badgers be identified;
- b) A reptile survey inclusive of mitigation measures as required;
- c) An ornithology and bird breeding survey together with a bird breeding protection plan. This shall include the following:
 - i) pre-construction surveys and timings;
 - ii) Identification of exclusion zones;
 - iii) method of surveying during construction for signs of disturbance and mitigation if birds are disturbed. For the avoidance of doubt the method of surveying shall include the requirement for a walkover survey to be undertaken by two suitably qualified ornithologists (using a rope) with appropriate nest finding experience within 48 hours of works being undertaken to which for ground nesting birds;
 - iv) detailed ornithological watching brief;
- d) A further assessment in respect of GWDTs by an experienced botanist together with the provision of measures to minimise impacts;
- e) A survey of the fen meadow within the Shielhill Glen SSSI inclusive of likely impacts and mitigation;
- f) An assessment of the impact on other habitats including but not limited to woodland, dry heath, wet heath, blanket bog and acid flush inclusive of mitigation as required.

All recommendations and mitigation identified in the detailed species and habitat surveys together with protection plans shall be followed to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority unless otherwise first agreed in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure that full detailed information is provided in respect of the impact and potential impact on all ecological matters, species and habitats and to ensure that the construction of the development in the interests of protecting and minimising the impact on the environment and surrounding area;

(18) that development shall not commence until a Compliance Monitoring Officer (CMO) has been appointed by the Planning Authority, at the expense of the developer. The CMO shall visit the site monthly (taken from the start date given in the Commencement of Development Form) and report back directly to the Planning Authority the following:

- a) An update on construction progress;
- b) How the requirements of the Construction Management Plan and all other conditions of the permission are being adhered to on the site;
- c) An update from the ECoW;
- d) Any other issues arising during the construction phase.

in the interests of protecting and minimising the impact on the environment in ensuring effective compliance with all conditions, methodologies and mitigation set out;

(19) that unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority, in the event of the scheme not generating electricity for a continuous period of twelve months with no realistic expectation of resumption in the foreseeable future, the site shall be reinstated

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within a period of 12 months in accordance with a scheme to be submitted to, and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, following the expiry of such a period of cessation or within such timescales as agreed in writing by the Planning Authority. Reinstatement shall include a methodology for the removal of the above ground infrastructures and restoration of the ground and restoration of the water regime to normal flows, to ensure that the site is reinstated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority to remove any unnecessary structures from the landscape within an appropriate timescale;

(20) that no development shall take place within the development site as outlined in red on the approved site plan until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented and that all recording and recovery of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority in agreement within its archaeological advisor, in the interests of the identification and recording of antiquity;

(21) that the development shall not become operational until vehicle wheel cleansing facilities have been installed and brought into operation on the site, the design and siting of which shall be subject to the prior approval of the Planning Authority, after consultation with Transport Scotland as the Trunk Road Authority, to ensure that material from the site is not deposited on the public road network, inclusive of the trunk road, to the detriment of road safety;

(22) that development shall not commence until full details of a method for ensuring that all working site plans and maps show the extent of the adjacent Loch Thom-Overton Water Cut scheduled monument and how all staff and visitors on site are to be briefed to ensure that they are aware that any damage to the monument would be an offence under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Planning Authority. The approved method shall then be followed at all times to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, in the interests of the protection of the scheduled monument;

(23) that Development shall not commence until the boundary of the adjacent Loch Thom-Overton Water Cut scheduled monument together with a 10 metre buffer zone shall be clearly marked on the ground to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority and remain in place until such times as the Planning Authority agrees in writing that it can be removed, and that all staff and visitors on site are briefed to ensure that they are aware that any damage to the monument would be an offence under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), in the interests of the protection of the scheduled monument;

(24) that the eight noise attenuation measures listed in section 4 of the Kip Water Hydro Scheme Noise Survey and Analysis Report No: P783 / Noise Survey and Analysis r0 October 2018 shall be implemented in the construction of the powerhouse building, to protect the amenities of occupiers of premises from unreasonable noise and vibration levels; and

(25) that development shall not commence until a proposed lighting plan for any external lighting and illumination within the site shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Works shall then proceed as approved and the plan followed at all times thereafter, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority, to protect the rural character and appearance of the surrounding landscape.

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There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration advising that following the decision to refuse listed building consent under delegated powers for a proposed new dormer window arrangement to upper floor flat at Flat 2, 17 Union Street, Greenock, and the subsequent appeal by the applicant to the Scottish Government against the refusal, the Reporter appointed by the Scottish Government had issued his decision which was to dismiss the appeal.

Decided: that the position be noted.

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 3 MAY 2023

Local Review Body

Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 4pm

Present: Councillors Brennan (for McGuire), Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, McCabe and McVey.

Chair: Councillor McVey presided.

In attendance:

Margaret Pickett	Senior Planner (Planning Adviser)
Jim Kerr	Solicitor, Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (Legal Adviser)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Paul Coulter	Communications Officer (Media Relations) (for Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety)

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

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Local Review Body.

258 APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 258

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McGuire, with Councillor Brennan substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

259 CONTINUED PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW 259

**(a) Proposed small ground floor extension and alterations to front of house including balcony at first floor level:
3 St Andrews Drive, Gourrock (22/0163/IC)**

There was submitted papers relative to the application for review for a proposed small ground floor extension and alterations to front of house including balcony at first floor level at 3 St Andrews Drive, Gourrock (22/0163/IC) to enable the Local Review Body to consider the matter afresh, consideration of which had been continued from the meeting held on 1 March 2023 to facilitate a written submission from the Appointed Officer.

Not having been present at the meeting held on 1 March 2023, Councillor Brennan did not participate in consideration of this item.

Ms Pickett acted as Planning Adviser relative to this case.

After discussion, Councillor Brooks moved that (1) sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and (2) the application for review be upheld and that planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:-

1. the development to which this permission relates must have commenced within 3 years from the date of this permission, to comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended); and

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2. that prior to the commencement of development, detailed specification of material, colour and finish (including samples where necessary) of all new build facing and construction materials to be used on the extension and balcony including external walls, roofs, balustrades etc. shall be submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority in writing. Construction shall proceed with the use of the approved materials unless a variation is otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority, to safeguard the amenity of this residential area.

As an amendment, Councillor McCabe moved that (1) sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and (2) the application for review be refused (upholding the Appointed Officer's determination) for the following reason:-

1. the position and form of the proposals disrupts the existing urban form and architecture to present a visually dominant, uncommon and inappropriate addition to the property, terrace and wider streetscape with an overall adverse impact to the residential character and amenity of the area. It therefore fails to accord with the 'Distinctive' and 'Safe and Pleasant' factors of Policy 1 within both the adopted 2019 and proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan and Policy 20 of the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan.

Following a roll call vote, 2 Members, Councillors Brooks and Crowther voted in favour of the motion, and 4 Members, Councillors Clocherty, Curley, McCabe and McVey voted in favour of the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided:

(1) that sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and

(2) that the application for review be dismissed and that planning permission be refused (upholding the Appointer Officer's determination) for the following reason:-

1. the position and form of the proposals disrupts the existing urban form and architecture to present a visually dominant, uncommon and inappropriate addition to the property, terrace and wider streetscape with an overall adverse impact to the residential character and amenity of the area. It therefore fails to accord with the 'Distinctive' and 'Safe and Pleasant' factors of Policy 1 within both the adopted 2019 and proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan and Policy 20 of the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan.

260 PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW

260

(a) **New build, 2 bedroom, one storey detached house (fronting Mews Lane) with associated hard and soft landscaping: 92 Newark Street, Greenock (22/0203/IC)**

There was submitted papers relative to the application for review for a new build, 2 bedroom, one storey detached house (fronting Mews Lane) with associated hard and soft landscaping at 92 Newark Street, Greenock (22/0203/IC) to enable the Local Review Body to consider the matter afresh.

Ms Pickett acted as Planning Adviser relative to this case.

During discussion of this item, Mr Kerr advised the Local Review Body that National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) has superseded Scottish Planning Policy and that should Members decide to refuse permission and uphold the Appointed Officer's determination then the reasons for refusal as detailed in the Decision Notice would need to be updated to reflect the changes in policy with Mr Kerr providing suggested wording in this regard.

After discussion, Councillor Brooks moved that (1) sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and (2) the application for review be refused (upholding the Appointed

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 3 MAY 2023

Officer's determination) for the following reasons:-

1. the proposals fails to have regard to sections d) and e) of Policy 7 of NPF4 as it does not protect the architectural and historic character of the area nor confirm to the existing density, built form and layout of the Greenock West End Conservation Area;
2. the proposal fails to accord with section b) of Policy 14 of NPF4 as it is not considered to be consistent with the 6 qualities of successful places as it fails to accord with the 'Pleasant' and 'Distinct' qualities of supporting attractive natural and built spaces and supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles.
3. the proposal by virtue of the sub-division of one of the large plots which characterize this part of the Conservation Area and introduce an additional built form to Mews Lane contrary to its historic and continued development as a sparsely developed rear service lane, fails to preserve or enhance the Greenock West End Conservation Area contrary to the requirements of Policy 28 of both the 2019 adopted Inverclyde Local Development Plan and proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan;
4. the proposals fails to have regard to the six qualities of successful places as required by Policy 1 of both the adopted 2019 Inverclyde Local Development Plan and proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan, specifically as it fails to reflect local urban form and contribute positively to historic places under the 'Distinctive' heading; and
- 5 the proposal fails to follow the advice and guidance within paragraph 8.2 of the Greenock West End Conservation Area Appraisal which highlights a presumption against development within the original plots in the Conservation Area.

As an amendment, Councillor Clocherty moved that (1) sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and (2) the application for review be upheld and that planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:-

1. the development to which this permission relates must be begun within 3 years from the date of this permission, to comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended);
2. no development shall be undertaken until detailed specification of material, finish and colour (including samples where necessary) of materials to be used on all external surfaces of the dwellinghouse and hardstanding areas have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details, to ensure the development is acceptable in appearance;
3. further development shall be undertaken until details/plans have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to all boundary treatments to be erected on the site. Thereafter the approved details shall be implemented in their approved form, to ensure the development is acceptable in appearance;
4. the dwellinghouse shall be designed to ensure that at least 15% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation and operation of low and zero carbon generating technologies (rising to at least 20% by the end of 2022). Development shall not commence until details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed low and zero carbon generating technologies to be installed in the dwellinghouse, to comply with the requirements of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Thereafter the approved low and zero carbon generating technologies shall be implemented in their approved form before the occupation of the dwellinghouse;
5. the dwellinghouse shall have an Electric Vehicle Charging Point. Development shall not commence until the details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed Electric Vehicle Charging Point, in the interests of sustainable development and to accord with the Inverclyde Council Supplementary Guidance on Energy. Thereafter the approved details shall be

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 3 MAY 2023

implemented on site in their approved form before the first occupation of the dwellinghouse;

6. that the presence of any suspected contamination that becomes evident during site works shall be brought to the attention of the Planning Authority and the Remediation Scheme shall not be implemented unless it has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure that all contamination issues are recorded and dealt with appropriately;

7. the off-street parking/ courtyard area shall be fully paved and the gradient shall not exceed 10%, to ensure usability and in the interests of road safety;

8. that the visibility splay of 2.4m x 17.0m x 1.05m at the site access/ driveway shall be achieved and be maintained at all times thereafter to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, to ensure that an appropriate visibility splay is provided and maintained, in the interest of road safety;

9. all surface water run-off is to be contained within the site and be limited to that of greenfield run-off. Prior to the commencement of development the applicant should demonstrate that this is achievable in agreement with the Planning Authority, to avoid surface run-off, flooding of the road or adjacent properties; and

10. confirmation of connection Scottish Water's Network shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure an appropriate drainage regime. Following a roll call vote, 3 Members, Councillors Brennan, Clocherty and Curley voted in favour of the amendment, and 4 Members, Councillors Brooks, Crowther, McCabe and McVey voted in favour of the motion which was declared carried.

Decided:

(1) that sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and

(2) that the application for review be refused (upholding the Appointed Officer's determination) for the following reasons:-

1. the proposals fails to have regard to sections d) and e) of Policy 7 of NPF4 as it does not protect the architectural and historic character of the area nor confirm to the existing density, built form and layout of the Greenock West End Conservation Area;

2. the proposal fails to accord with section b) of Policy 14 of NPF4 as it is not considered to be consistent with the 6 qualities of successful places as it fails to accord with the 'Pleasant' and 'Distinct' qualities of supporting attractive natural and built spaces and supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles.

3. the proposal by virtue of the sub-division of one of the large plots which characterize this part of the Conservation Area and introduce an additional built form to Mews Lane contrary to its historic and continued development as a sparsely developed rear service lane, fails to preserve or enhance the Greenock West End Conservation Area contrary to the requirements of Policy 28 of both the 2019 adopted Inverclyde Local Development Plan and proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan;

4. the proposals fails to have regard to the six qualities of successful places as required by Policy 1 of both the adopted 2019 Inverclyde Local Development Plan and proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan, specifically as it fails to reflect local urban form and contribute positively to historic places under the 'Distinctive' heading; and

5. the proposal fails to follow the advice and guidance within paragraph 8.2 of the Greenock West End Conservation Area Appraisal which highlights a presumption against development within the original plots in the Conservation Area.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 4 MAY 2023

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 4 May 2023 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, Nelson, Quinn and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor McCormick presided.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Gail MacFarlane	Shared Head of Roads & Environmental Services
Eddie Montgomery	Interim Head of Property Services
Martin McNab	Public Protection Manager
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Julie Ann Wilson	Principle Accountant
Gerard Smith	Technical Accountant
Peter MacDonald	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Allan McDonald	ICT and Customer Services Manager
George Barbour	Service Manager, Communication, Tourism and Health & Safety

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillor Jackson attending by video-conference.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.

261 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 261

No apologies for absence were intimated.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 6 (Proposed 20mph Speed Limits Around Schools) – Councillor Brooks.

Agenda Item 8 (Contract Awards 1 October 2022 – 31 March 2023) – Councillors Cassidy and Robertson.

Agenda Item 13 (Property Asset Management – Private) – Councillors Clocherty and Jackson

262 2022/23 Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget as at 28 February 2023 262

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Director Environment & Regeneration advising the Committee of the 2022/23 Revenue Budget projected position at 28 February 2023.

Decided: that it be noted that the Revenue Budget is currently projected to underspend in 2022/23 by £197,000 based on figures as at 28 February 2023.

263 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme 2023/26 - Progress 263

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 4 MAY 2023

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration and the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on the status of the projects within the 2023/26 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme.

Decided:

(1) that the current position and progress on the specific projects of the 2023/26 Capital Programme and City deal, as detailed in the report and appendices, be noted; and

(2) that the allocation of £57,000 of funding from the Property Assets Covid Pressures Allowance to the Crosshill Children's Home completion works project, as detailed in paragraph 3.40 of the report, be noted.

264 Environment and Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 264

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration presenting the Environment & Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 to the Committee for approval.

Decided:

(1) that the Environment & Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be approved;

(2) that it be noted that progress reports on the delivery of the Plan and its key performance indicators will be brought to this Committee, as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report; and

(3) that it be noted that as this is the first iteration of the Committee Plan, it may be subject to further refinement going forward.

265 Fore Street Car Parking Charges Petition 265

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration requesting consideration of a petition on car parking charges at the Fore Street Car Park, Port Glasgow, fulfilling a remit from the Petitions Committee of 10 November 2022.

Decided:

(1) that the contents of the report in relation to the petition be noted;

(2) that it be agreed that the current parking tariff remains in place at the Fore Street Car Park, Port Glasgow;

(3) that it be noted that there is a process in place which allows the NHS to formally request that Inverclyde Council regulates their car park via a Traffic Regulation Order and offer to agree associated costs; and

(4) that it be noted that each of the three doctors' surgeries will be entitled to apply as businesses for permits under the proposed Business Parking Permit scheme should that scheme be implemented.

266 Proposed 20mph Speed Limits Around Schools 266

There was submitted a report by the Shared Head of Roads & Environmental Services presenting recommendations in relation to the implementation of 20mph speed limits around schools.

The Director Environment & Regeneration advised the Committee that the green circles that appear in the appendix, on the map titled 'St Michael's & Newark Primary School, Port Glasgow, Proposed 20mph Speed Limit', are the result of a drafting error and should be disregarded.

Councillor Brooks declared a connection as the owner of a property on a street mentioned in the report subject to the proposed 20mph speed limit. He also formed the

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 4 MAY 2023

view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and he was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that (a) the proposed extents of the Speed Limit Orders be agreed, and (b) it be remitted to the Shared Head of Roads & Environmental Services and the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to arrange for the promotion and implementation of the Speed Limit Order in accordance with the new Speed Limit Order procedure; and

(2) that it be agreed that officers of Roads and Environmental Services and Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services phase the Speed Limit Orders, prioritising areas with highest volumes and speeds using identified roads around schools and on available funds.

267 Pedestrian Crossing, Lochwinnoch Road, Kilmacolm Petition 267

There was submitted a report by the Shared Head of Roads & Environmental Services requesting consideration of a petition on a pedestrian crossing at Lochwinnoch Road, Kilmacolm, fulfilling a remit from the Petitions Committee of 16 March 2023.

Decided: that it be remitted to the Shared Head of Roads & Environmental Services to submit a further report on options for pedestrian safety enhancements at Lochwinnoch Road, Kilmacolm.

268 Contract Awards – 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 268

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration advising of contracts awarded for the supply of goods or materials, provision of services and execution of works during the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Councillor Cassidy declared a connection as a relative sits on the board of an organisation mentioned in the report, and Councillor Robertson declared a connection as a member of the board of an organisation mentioned in the report. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the contracts awarded by the Council during the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 be noted.

269 Greater Glasgow & Clyde Joint Health Protection Plan 269

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for the 2023-25 Joint Health Protection Plan agreed jointly with Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board.

Decided: that the Joint Health Protection Plan be approved, subject to the approval of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde.

270 Food Service Plan and Food Standards Scotland Audit 270

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration (1) providing an update on the final audit report from Food Standards Scotland and (2) seeking approval for the Food Service Plan.

Decided:

(1) that the Food Service Plan be agreed; and

(2) that the final audit report from Food Standards Scotland be noted.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 4 MAY 2023

271 Housing Update

271

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on (1) progress on the Local Housing Strategy, (2) progress to date in Inverclyde on the Energy Efficient Scotland Area Based Scheme (formally known as HEEPS), and (3) the high-level findings of the private sector Local House Condition Survey.

Decided:

- (1) that (a) the update on the Local Housing Strategy be noted, and (b) it be noted that the Committee will receive a final draft of the Local Housing Strategy for approval upon completion of the Peer Review process.
- (2) that the progress on energy efficiency measures provided through the Area Based Schemes in Inverclyde be noted; and
- (3) that the high-level findings of the Local House Condition Survey be noted.

272 The Stopping Up of Road and Footpath, Inverclyde (Arthur Street, Greenock) Order 2022

272

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration (1) requesting consideration of the order 'The Stopping Up of Road and Footpath, Inverclyde (Arthur Street, Greenock) Order 2022', which was made on 25 October 2022 in terms of Sections 207 and 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, and (2) remitting the Order to the Inverclyde Council for approval and confirmation.

Decided: that (a) the 'The Stopping Up of Road and Footpath, Inverclyde (Arthur Street, Greenock) Order 2022' be approved, and (b) the Order be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for confirmation and thereafter delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services to take all necessary action in connection with the confirmation of the Order.

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 items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act as are set opposite each item.

Item	Paragraph(s)
Property Asset Management – Private	6 & 9
Commercial and Industrial Portfolio Management Report	6 & 9

273 Property Asset Management – Private

273

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration making recommendations in respect of a number of property assets.

Councillors Clocherty and Jackson declared connections as members of the board of an organisation mentioned in the report. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided: following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended, all as detailed in the private appendix.

274 Commercial and Industrial Portfolio Management Report**274**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration making recommendations in respect of the management of Inverclyde Council's commercial and industrial portfolio.

Decided: following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended, all as detailed in the private appendix.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 4 MAY 2023

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 4 May 2023 at 4pm

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

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Gail MacFarlane	Shared Head of Roads & Environmental Services
Steven McNab	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Allan McDonald	ICT & Customer Services Manager
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Peter MacDonald	Solicitor, Legal Services
George Barbour	Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Daisley, Jackson, Law, McCluskey, McVey and Reynolds attending by video-conference.

275 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

275

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McGuire.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

276 Shared Services

276

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval to dissolve Roads, Grounds, Waste and Fleet Shared Services following (1) a decision of the Shared Services Joint Committee on 18 April 2023 to dissolve the current Shared Service arrangement for Roads, Grounds, Waste and Fleet subject to the approval of both West Dunbartonshire Council and Inverclyde Council, and (2) a decision of West Dunbartonshire Council on 26 April 2023 to (a) dissolve the current Shared Service arrangement for Roads, Grounds, Waste and Fleet with effect from 1 June 2023, and (b) continue the arrangement for Internal Audit services pending a further report.

Decided:

- (1) that the jointly commissioned independent evaluation of Shared Services by MKA Economics, as detailed at appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the decision of the Shared Services Joint Committee on 18 April 2023 be noted;

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 4 MAY 2023

(3) that Inverclyde Council agree to (a) dissolve the Shared Service arrangement for Roads, Grounds, Waste and Fleet services between West Dunbartonshire Council and Inverclyde Council with a planned implementation date of 1 June 2023, and (b) continue the Shared Service arrangement for Internal Audit services between West Dunbartonshire Council and Inverclyde Council pending a further report which will in the first instance be considered at a future meeting of the Shared Services Joint Committee on a future model;

(4) that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to take all actions necessary to implement the dissolution of the Shared Service arrangement for Roads, Grounds, Waste and Fleet services between West Dunbartonshire Council and Inverclyde Council;

(5) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to make any adjustments to the Council's governance documents to reflect the decisions taken, including the Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration and the Scheme of Delegation (Officers); and

(6) that it be noted that a special meeting of the Council would be arranged for 4pm on Thursday 18 May 2023 to consider the second phase of the senior management restructure for Inverclyde Council.

277 Ms Gail MacFarlane and Mr Kenny Lang

277

At the conclusion of business the Provost thanked Ms MacFarlane and Mr Lang for their work within the Shared Service arrangement, and wished them well in their future posts.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 9 MAY 2023

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Daisley, Law, McCabe (for McGuire for Education business only), McCluskey (for McGuire for Communities business only), McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, Mr J Docherty, Church Representative, and Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative.

Chair: Councillor Clocherty presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources
Michael Roach	Head of Education
Anne Sinclair	Managing Solicitor (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services)
Hugh Scott	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Eddie Montgomery	Interim Head of Property Services
Iain Cameron	Principal Accountant (Education & Communities) (for Chief Financial Officer)
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Lauren O'Hagan	Head Teacher, Newark Primary School
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Peter MacDonald	Solicitor, Legal Services
George Barbour	Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Daisley, Law, McCabe and Wilson attending remotely.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.

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|------------|--|------------|
| 278 | Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | 278 |
| | <p>Apologies for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McGuire, with Councillor McCluskey substituting for Communities business and Councillor McCabe substituting for Education business, Rev D Burt and Rev F Donaldson.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:
 Agenda Item 4 (Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives) – Councillors Clocherty, McCluskey, Quinn and Robertson.</p> | |
| 279 | Communities Revenue Budget Report – 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 28 February 2023 | 279 |

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 9 MAY 2023

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2022/23 Communities Revenue Budget position at 28 February 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected underspend for 2022/23 Communities Revenue Budget of £27,000 as at 28 February 2023 be noted; and
- (2) that the £25,000 virement, as detailed in paragraph 3.5 and appendix 5 of the report, be approved.

280 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items 280

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer providing (1) performance information for the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Communities Capital Programme and Asset related items.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2023/26 Capital Programme be noted;
- (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Lady Alice Bowling Club, (b) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (c) Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor, (d) Community Hub King George VI, (e) Craigend Resource Centre, (f) Inverclyde Shed Meet, Make + Share, (g) Parklea Branching Out, and (h) the Asset Transfer Working Group; and
- (3) that the Committee notes the position with the Parklea Branching Out project, and the approval of funding from the Reserves allocation held by the Policy & Resources Committee, as detailed at paragraph 3.11 of the report.

281 Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 281

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Communities aspect of the service.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, and Councillors McCluskey and Robertson declared connections as members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the updates on the following be noted (a) review of schools catering, (b) Inverclyde Libraries Service, (c) Cultural Services, (d) Meliora 2023, (e) Warm Hand of Friendship Grants, and (f) Inverclyde Leisure's Strategic Plan 2023-2026.

282 Partnership Agreement with SportScotland 282

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking (1) Committee approval for a further four-year partnership agreement with SportScotland to fund the Active Schools and Community Sports Hub provision locally, and (2) to confirm the Council's financial commitment to this.

Decided:

- (1) that a new Partnership Agreement between Inverclyde Council and SportScotland over the period April 2023 to March 2027 be approved; and
- (2) that approval be given to the continued financial contribution for the duration of

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 9 MAY 2023

the Partnership Agreement and that the service will contain the additional costs within its budget from 2024/25.

The Communities business concluded at 2.40pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Ms McEwan joining the meeting by video conference and Mr Docherty attending the Municipal Buildings.

283 Education Scotland Report on Newark Primary School 283

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the recent Education Scotland full inspection of Newark Primary School.

The report outlined four key strengths, including strong pastoral leadership which created a nurturing and highly inclusive learning environment, with three areas highlighted for improvement.

Ms O'Hagan, Head Teacher, was present and addressed the Committee in relation to the findings.

Decided:

(1) that the Education Scotland full inspection report on Newark Primary School be noted; and

(2) that the appreciation of the Committee be extended to school staff and all those involved in the inspection process.

284 Education Revenue Budget Report – 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 28 February 2023 284

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2022/23 Education Revenue Budget position at 28 February 2023.

Decided: that the current projected underspend for 2022/23 of £701,000 as at 28 February 2023 be noted.

285 Education Capital Programme 2023/26 - Progress 285

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing performance information for the Education part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Education Capital Programme.

Decided:

(1) that the current position of the 2023/26 Capital Programme be noted;

(2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Gourock Primary School extension, (b) general lifecycle works, (c) free school meals, and (d) 1140 Hours expansion – various establishments minor works.

286 Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 286

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 (the Plan), appended as appendix 1 to the report, for approval.

Decided:

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 9 MAY 2023

- (1) that the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be approved;
- (2) that it be noted that progress reports on the delivery of the Plan and its key performance indicators will be brought to the Committee, as detailed at paragraph 3.4 of the report; and
- (3) that it be noted that the version of the Plan appended to the report is a first iteration and may be subject to further refinement going forward.

287 **Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives** 287

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on local and national projects and initiatives linked to education.

Decided:

- (1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Care Inspectorate inspection outcomes, (b) education reform update, (c) tier 2 and 3 mental health provision, and (d) Learning Hours consultation; and
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to provide a further update on the provision of tier 2 and 3 mental health and wellbeing services to the next meeting.

288 **Outcome of Statutory Consultation Process – Change of Blairmore Nursery School to Blairmore Children’s Centre** 288

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking Committee approval for the outcome of the statutory consultation process regarding the future leadership and status of Blairmore Nursery School.

The Head of Education provided a verbal update and advised that the establishment would be called Blairmore Early Learning Centre.

Decided: that the outcome of the statutory consultation process be approved and that accordingly Blairmore Nursery School should become Blairmore Early Learning Centre from August 2023.

289 **Universal Free School Meals in Primary Schools** 289

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking Committee approval for the introduction of universal free school meal provision in primary schools within Inverclyde from August 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that the early adoption of universal free school meal provision in primary schools within Inverclyde from August 2023 be approved; and
- (2) that the appreciation of the Committee be extended to all officers involved in achieving this initiative.

Amendments to the Inverclyde Policy on Admissions and Pupil Placement in Mainstream Schools

It was noted that this item was withdrawn from the agenda.

290 **School Term Dates – Session 2024/2025** 290

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 9 MAY 2023

Organisational Development seeking Committee approval for the setting of school term dates for the session 2024/25.

Decided: that the school term dates for 2024/25, as detailed at appendix 1 and 2 to the report, be approved.

291 School Transport Contracts (Mainstream) – Results of Tenders for Contracts 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 291

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking Committee approval to accept the tenders for mainstream school transport contracts due for renewal from the start of the school session 2023/24, as detailed in paragraph 4.5 of the report.

Decided: that the tenders, as detailed at paragraph 4.5 of the report, for mainstream school transport contracts due for renewal from the start of the school session 2023/24 be accepted.

292 Education Services Standards and Quality Report April 2022 – April 2023 292

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the Education Services Standards and Quality Report for April 2022 to April 2023 to the Committee for consideration and approval prior to publication.

Decided: that the content and publication of the Education Services Standards and Quality Report for April 2022 to April 2023 be approved.

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 the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

293 Early Learning and Childcare Funded Provider Update 293

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on matters relating to the governance of funded providers.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the content of the report, all as detailed in the Appendix.

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD –10 MAY 2023

General Purposes Board

Wednesday 10 May 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Cassidy, Crowther, Curley, McCluskey, Moran, Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Moran presided.

In attendance:

David Keenan	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Anne Sinclair	Legal Services Manager (Licensing, Litigation & Committees)
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
John McWilliams	Vehicle Inspection/Hire Desk Officer, Environmental Services
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Curley, McCluskey, Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson attending remotely.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Board.

294 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 294

No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

295 Installation of Operation of CCTV Cameras within Taxi/Private Hire Vehicles 295

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) seeking the views of the Board on the responses received following a consultation on the terms of a draft policy pertaining to the installation and operation of CCTV cameras within taxi/private hire vehicles, and (2) requesting the Board consider (a) the terms of the said draft policy, and (b) determine whether to approve the said draft policy.

The Legal Services Manager provided a verbal update and advised that the report did not cover the use of dashcams in taxi/private hire vehicles and that it was proposed this would be the subject of a further consultation.

Decided:

(1) that (a) approval be given to (i) the draft policy, as appended at appendix 1 to the report, (ii) the proposed licensing conditions, as detailed at section 6 of the report, and (iii) the notification process, as detailed at section 7 of the report, and (b) it be remitted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to publicise the terms of the said policy and guidance;

(2) that approval be given to (a) the proposed notification process, as detailed at section 7 of the report, (b) the administration fee of £35, as detailed at paragraph 7.3 of the report, and (c) the inspection fee of £15, as detailed at paragraphs 7.5;

(3) that a further consultation be undertaken on the use of dashcams in taxi/private hire vehicles with the outcome of that consultation being incorporated into the approved policy on the installation and operation of CCTV in taxis/private hire vehicles; and

(4) that it be noted a further report will be brought to the Board following the consultation on dashcams.

296 Tinted Windows in Taxis and Private Hire Cars

296

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 18 MAY 2023

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 18 May 2023 at 4pm

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

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Steven McNab	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Eddie Montgomery	Interim Head of Property Services
Hugh Scott	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Peter MacDonald	Solicitor, Legal Services
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
George Barbour	Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Law, McCormick and McGuire attending remotely.

297 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

297

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Clocherty.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

298 Management Structure – Phase 2

298

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive seeking approval for the second phase of the new management structure following the decision of the Inverclyde Council on 4 May 2023 to dissolve the shared services between Inverclyde Council and West Dunbartonshire Council for Roads, Grounds, Waste and Fleet.

Decided:

- (1) that Phase 2 of the management structure with focus on the Environment & Regeneration element of the Senior Management Structure, as detailed in section 4 and appendix 2 of the report, be approved;
- (2) that approval be given to the financial implications detailed at paragraph 5.2 of the report, including (a) increasing the Council non-teaching turnover target by £33,000 from 2023/24, and (b) creating an earmarked reserve to support the preparation of the Local Development Plan;

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 18 MAY 2023

- (3) that agreement be given to progressing the recruitment of a Head of Physical Assets, as detailed at paragraph 4.3 of the report;
- (4) that agreement be given to (a) creating a service manager post for major projects to support priorities within the Council Plan and attract additional external funding for regeneration, and (b) redesignating the post of Property Services Manager to that of Asset Manager;
- (5) that it be noted that a further report with recommendations for Phase 3 of the management structure will be brought to a future meeting of the Inverclyde Council once the timescale for the National Care Service and the outcomes of the 2024/26 Budget process are known; and
- (6) that (a) delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services in consultation with other relevant officers to update the Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration, Scheme of Delegation, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders relating to Contracts to reflect the decisions taken, and (b) it be noted that these updates will be subject to the planned review of some of those documents later in 2023.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 18 MAY 2023

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 18 May 2023 at 4.10pm

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

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Steven McNab	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Eddie Montgomery	Interim Head of Property Services
Hugh Scott	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Peter MacDonald	Solicitor, Legal Services
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
George Barbour	Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Law, McCormick and McGuire attending remotely.

299 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

299

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Clocherty.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

300 Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Inverclyde

300

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising the Council of the outcome of the first round of consultation in the present review process and other engagement conducted by officers, and (2) seeking a formal resolution to publish the draft Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Inverclyde for a second round of public consultation, a copy of which was appended to the report as appendix 5.

Councillor Curley left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Decided:

(1) that, having regard to the outcome of consultation and other engagement conducted to date, all as detailed in the report, the Inverclyde Council resolves that the

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 18 MAY 2023

draft Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Inverclyde be published for a further period of consultation; and

(2) that the proposed actions of officers as detailed in the report be noted.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 MAY 2023

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 23 May 2023 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Curley, Daisley (for Armstrong), Law, McCabe, McCluskey, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Robertson and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Steven McNab	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Vicky Pollock	Legal Services Manager (Procurement, Conveyancing & Information Governance)
Angela Edmiston	Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Strategic Finance)
Barbara McQuarrie	Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager
Tracy Bunton	Revenues and Benefits Manager
Morna Rae	Interim Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Angela Rainey	Service Manager – People and Change Management
Carol	Information Governance & Complaints Officer
Craig-McDonald	
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
George Barbour	Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Daisley, Law and McGuire attending remotely.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.

301 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 301

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Armstrong, with Councillor Daisley substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

302 2022/23 Policy & Resources Committee and General Fund Revenue Budget Position as at 28 February 2023 302

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Chief Executive advising the Committee of (1) the 2022/23 Committee Revenue Budget projected

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 MAY 2023

position as at 28 February 2023, (2) the overall General Fund Revenue Budget projection and (3) the position of the General Fund Reserve.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend for 2022/23 of £683,000 as at 28 February 2023 within the Committee's Budget be noted;
- (2) that the projected 2022/23 surplus of £18,340 for the Common Good Budget be noted; and
- (3) that the (a) projected underspend of £1,098,000 for the General Fund; and (b) projected surplus reserves of £1.264million as at 31 March 2023, be noted.

303 Policy & Resources Capital Budget and overall 2022/26 Capital Programme 303

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing the latest position of the Policy & Resources Capital Programme budget and the 2022/26 Capital Programme.

Decided: that the following be noted (a) the current position of the 2022/26 Policy & Resources Capital Budget; and (b) the current position of the 2022/26 Capital Programme.

304 Finance Services Update 304

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on a number of matters being progressed by the Finance Service relating to (a) Discretionary Payments, (b) Energy Support Payments, (c) Non-Domestic Rates matter, (d) War Pensions discretion, (e) Revenues & Benefits Performance, (f) Treasury Management, (g) 2024/25 Budget development and (h) Insurance & Claims Handling Tender, and (2) seeking delegated authority for the award of the Council's Insurance and Claims Handling Service tender prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

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

Decided:

- (1) that the updates contained in the report and the continued efforts by officers to improve uptake of the UK Government Energy Support Payments be noted;
- (2) that the continuation of the application of a 100% disregard to war disablement and bereavement pensions when assessing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims be approved;
- (3) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital, & Customer Services to approve the award for the Insurance and Claims Handling tender in accordance with Contract Standing Order 20.3 (ii);
- (4) that it be noted that an initial report on the 2024/25 Budget will be presented to the August Policy & Resources Committee; and
- (5) that it be agreed that the Convenor write to the relevant UK Government minister on behalf of the Committee regarding actions that can be taken to improve take up of UK Government energy support schemes.

305 Corporate Policy Update 305

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on a number of performance and policy matters relating to (1) New Council Plan, Committee Delivery and Improvement Plans and performance management arrangements, (2) Inverclyde Council Gaelic Language Plan Implementation Report 2022/23, (3) corporate awards, and (4) mid-year population data releases.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 MAY 2023

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee notes (a) the latest updates in relation to Corporate Policy and Performance and (b) that the Gaelic Language Plan Implementation Report 2022/23 will be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig, as per the Bòrd's instruction; and
- (2) that it be remitted to the Chief Executive to write to the National Records of Scotland and any other relevant organisations requesting that the mid-year population estimates for 2022 be published before winter 2023/24.

306 Policy and Resources Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 306

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for the Policy & Resources Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Policy & Resources Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be approved;
- (2) that it be noted that progress reports on the delivery of this Plan and its key performance indicators will be brought to this Committee, as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report; and
- (3) that it be noted that as this is the first iteration of the Committee Plans, there may be further refinement of all three plans going forward.

307 Reserves Policy – Triennial Review 307

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for the revised Reserves Policy last reviewed in September 2019.

Decided:

- (1) that the Reserves Policy, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be approved; and
- (2) that the movement in the Council's Reserves over 2013/22, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report, be noted.

308 Children in Poverty Data and Anti-Poverty Budget Update 308

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) seeking agreement for spend in relation to the anti-poverty recurring funding and (2) providing information on the latest Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) data on Children in Low Income Families in Inverclyde.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals as detailed in paragraph 1.4 of the report be agreed;
- (2) that it be noted that an evaluation report on anti-poverty initiatives will be submitted to the Committee in September 2023; and
- (3) that the latest DWP data on children living in low-income families in Inverclyde and the potential impact upon future Council funding levels be noted.

309 Supporting Employee Recruitment and Retention 309

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing an update on recent initiatives to support employee recruitment and retention and seeking agreement to progress a number of related projects and proposals.

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Decided:

- (1) that the work being progressed to support employee recruitment and retention across the Council be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the view of the Corporate Management Team that the pilot hybrid working strategy has been successful and should be formally incorporated into the Council's wider Flexible Working Policy which is being revised and will be brought to the September Policy & Resources Committee for approval;
- (3) that the following be noted, (a) the creation of a working group to explore the reduction in the working week from 37 to 35 hours as detailed in paragraphs 4.2 – 4.4 of the report, and (b) that any proposals and implications will be subject of a report later in 2023; and
- (4) that the allocation of £100,000 via a one-off increase to the 2023/24 non-HSCP turnover target for the recruitment of university students and retention and development of existing employees be approved.

310 Mr Steven McNab 310

The Convenor referred to the imminent retirement of Mr Steven McNab, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications. The Convenor thanked Mr McNab for his dedicated service to Inverclyde Council and on behalf of the Committee wished him a long and happy retirement.

311 Data Protection Policy Review 311

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) providing an overview of the Council's reviewed and updated Data Protection Policy and (2) seeking approval for the updated policy.

Decided: that the updated Data Protection Policy, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

312 Review of Committee Report Format 312

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services seeking approval to update the Council's corporate committee report template, following a recent review.

Decided:

- (1) that the use of the updated committee report template, as detailed in appendix 1 of this report, be approved; and
- (2) that it be noted that the updated annotated version of the template, and associated guidance, will be rolled out to officers with training, ready for use from the start of the 2023/24 Committee cycle of meetings in August 2023.

313 Freedom of Information Annual Report 2022 313

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services providing details of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the Council during the period 1 January – 31 December 2022.

Decided:

- (1) that the information provided in relation to FOI requests received by the Council during 2022 be noted;
- (2) that the publication of the annual performance report on the Council's website be approved; and

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(3) that it be noted that going forward officers will cease the collection of information on the time spent on, and estimated costs of dealing with, FOI and EIR requests across the Council, which will no longer be reported annually to Committee.

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 the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

314 Voluntary Severance Scheme Releases**314**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing an update on the position of releases that have been agreed under the Council's Voluntary Severance Scheme since the previous report to the Committee on 21 June 2022.

Decided:

- (1) that the agreement to release 37 employees and 8 Inverclyde Leisure employees under the Council's Voluntary Severance scheme be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that future reports will be submitted to update Members on the release of employees by the Chief Executive under delegated authority on an annual basis.

LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 25 MAY 2023

Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 25 May 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Cassidy (for Clocherty), Crowther, Daisley, Law, McGuire, Moran, Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources
Hugh Scott	Service Manager Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Roisin Dillon	Trading Standards and Enforcement Team Leader
Jim Kerr	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
George Barbour	Service Manager, Communication, Tourism and Health & Safety

In attendance also:

Lorna Gibson	Superintendent, Partnerships, Preventions and Interventions Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, Police Scotland
Damien Kane	Chief Inspector, Area Commander, Inverclyde, Police Scotland
Mark McLennan	Detective Superintendent, Specialist Crime Division, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, Police Scotland
Amanda Cairns	Detective Superintendent, Public Protection Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Unit, Dalmarnock, Police Scotland
Derek Middleton	Intelligence Support Analysis and Performance, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, Police Scotland
David McCarrey	Area Commander, Service Delivery, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde
Paul Storrie	Area Group Commander Prevention and Protection, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Crowther, Law, McGuire and Reynolds attending remotely.

Prior to the commencement of business the Convener welcomed the representatives from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Services to the meeting.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Panel.

315 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

315

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Clocherty, with Councillor Cassidy substituting.

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No declarations of interest were intimated.

316 Presentation on Violence against Women and Girls Strategy**316**

The Panel heard a presentation by Detective Superintendent A Cairns providing a national overview of Police Scotland's Violence against Women and Girls Strategy and highlighting the work of Police Scotland's Public Protection Domestic Abuse Co-Ordination Unit. Detective Superintendent M McLennan provided an overview of the Strategy from a local perspective. Thereafter Detective Superintendent McLennan answered a number of questions from Members.

Decided: that the information contained in the presentation be noted.

Prior to discussion on the following item, Superintendent Gibson acknowledged the public statement made earlier that day by Chief Constable Sir Iain Livingstone stating that institutional racism, sexism, misogyny and discrimination exist within Police Scotland. Superintendent Gibson advised that, as the statement had been made so recently, there would be a period of reflection on the content.

317 Police Scotland Performance Report**317**

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2022 to 28 February 2023. During the course of discussion on this item Chief Inspector Kane referred to the increase in relation to housebreaking crimes on the previous year. It was noted that acquisitive crime targeting motor vehicles had also risen on the previous years, specifically motor vehicles with catalytic converters. Chief Inspector Kane advised that members of the public can be referred to Police Scotland's website for safeguarding advice. It was also noted that a range of online frauds and attempted fraud methods have been reported in Inverclyde. Chief Inspector Kane advised Members that Police Scotland is working with a number of partners on the Shut-Out Scammers campaign to signpost the public to relevant advice and support services and is also targeting the younger generation by using social media campaigns. It was noted that the number of drug deaths continues to be significant in Inverclyde. Chief Inspector Kane reported that 14 people have been reported to the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service in relation to drug dealing crimes. He further advised that 70% of local Police Officers are now carrying Naloxone.

Councillor McGuire left the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

Decided: that the information contained in the report be noted.

318 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report**318**

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023. During discussion on this item it was reported that there was a slight increase in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents compared to this time last year, noting there has been a decrease from the last quarter. Group Commander Storrie informed Members that with the implementation of the new UFAS approach on 1 July 2023 it was anticipated that there would be a significant reduction on these calls, which will provide valuable daytime capacity for additional firefighter and community safety activities. He further advised that the Spring Tactical Action Plan will focus on wilful and deliberate fire setting and the community action team will deliver engagement sessions to schools.

Decided: that the information contained in the report be noted.

319 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report**319**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development providing an update on current and emerging issues relating to Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Services.

Decided:

(1) that the updates on the following matters be noted (a) the Scottish Police Authority partnership agreement with COSLA, (b) Draft Budget 2023-24, (c) 'Is that Me' Campaign, (d) Local Authority engagement, (e) drink and drug driving update, (f) Mental Health in policing conference, (g) Police Scotland Violence Against Women Strategy, (h) collaboration between Local Government and Policing (i) Local Police Plans – A Framework in Scrutiny and (j) Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Pay Offer.