

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 2 November 2023 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong (for Robertson), Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick and Quinn.

Chair: Councillor McCormick presided.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Martin McNab	Public Protection Manager
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Julie Ann Wilson	Principal Accountant
Gerard Smith	Capital Assets Principal Accountant
David Aitken	Procurement Manager
Daniel Henderson	Planning and Building Standards Service Manager
Steven Walker	Service Manager - Roads
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' and Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Cassidy, Crowther and Jackson attending remotely.

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

547 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

547

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Robertson, with Councillor Armstrong substituting, and Councillor Nelson.

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

Agenda Item 3 (Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme 2023/26 - Progress) – Councillors Clocherty and Curley.

Agenda Item 5 (Annual Procurement Report) – Councillor Cassidy.

Agenda Item 6 (Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-28) – Councillors Brooks and Curley.

Agenda Item 7 (Clune Park Masterplan) – Councillors Brooks and Curley.

Agenda Item 12 (Employability Update) – Councillor Clocherty.

Agenda Item 16 (Contract Awards – 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023) – Councillor Cassidy.

548 2023/24 Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget at 31 August 2023

548

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director Environment & Regeneration advising the Committee of the 2023/24 Environment & Regeneration Committee Revenue Budget projected position at 31 August 2023.

Decided: that (a) it be noted that the Committee's Revenue Budget is currently projected to overspend in 2023/24 by £203,000 based on figures at 31 August 2023, and (b) the actions being taken by the Director to reduce the projected overspend be noted.

549 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme 2023/26 – Progress

549

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.

Councillor Clocherty declared a connection as a Member of the Board of Riverside Inverclyde, and Councillor Curley as a Member of the Board of Riverside Inverclyde and as a Director of Inchgreen Marine Park. 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 they were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

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

(2) that the on-going work in respect of the further identification of priority projects relating to core asset condition and allocation of funds from the 2023/25 Core Property budget be noted; and

(3) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to accept the most economically advantageous tender for the Greenock Town Hall Re-roofing, ventilation and windows project subject to the cost being within the allocated budget for the project.

550 Environment and Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report

550

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the progress made in the delivery of the Environment & Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26.

Decided: that the progress made in the delivery of the Environment & Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted.

551 Annual Procurement Report

551

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration (1) providing an update on procurement related activity including outcomes delivered during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and (2) seeking approval to publish the Annual Procurement Report, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

Councillor Cassidy declared a connection as a relative sits on the board of an organisation mentioned in the report. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and he was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the Annual Procurement Report, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, for publication to the Scottish Government and on the Council's website, be approved;

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

(2) that the latest procurement compliant spend position and spend with SMEs and local suppliers be noted; and

(3) that the commitment to Fair Work First and community benefits secured for delivery by suppliers during the reporting period 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2023 be noted.

552 Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-28 552

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for (1) the Local Housing Strategy 2023-28, and (b) the governance and reporting structure for the implementation of the Strategy.

Councillor Brooks and Councillor Curley declared a connection as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes. 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 they were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the Local Housing Strategy 2023-28 be approved; and

(2) that the implementation plan and reporting strategy for the Local Housing Strategy 2023-28, as detailed in section 4 of the report, be approved.

553 Clune Park Masterplan 553

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration presenting the Clune Park Masterplan for approval.

Councillor Brooks and Councillor Curley declared a connection as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes. 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 they were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the Clune Park Masterplan, specifically with Option 1 of Phase 2, as detailed in the report, be approved; and

(2) that it be noted that the Committee will receive a progress update on the appointment of a partner RSL in due course.

554 Local Development Plan 554

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the progress of the Local Development Plan, forming part of the Council's Development Plan, to guide future land use and decisions on planning applications.

Decided: that (a) the contents of the report be noted, and (b) it be agreed to support the intended approach, as detailed in the report, to the delivery of the Local Development Plan.

555 Place Based Funding 2023-24 555

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for the Place Based Funding projects for 2023-2024.

Decided:

(1) that the projects for 2023-24 be approved; and

(2) that (a) the suggested projects for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 be noted, and (b) that it be noted that reports for approval will be presented to the Environment & Regeneration Committee when funding is confirmed.

556 Energy & Climate Change / Net Zero – Update 556

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets providing an update on Energy and Climate Change related activity and associated legislation.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress and update on Net Zero Action Plan items, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that that the Energy Performance Certificate Reform 2023 and Inverclyde response, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report, be noted;
- (3) that the progress and programme for the development of the Inverclyde Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy, as detailed in appendix 3 of the report, be noted; and
- (4) that the allocation of funding from NatureScot be noted.

557 Flooding Event 7 October 2023

557

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets informing the Committee of the actions taken during the flood event on 7 October 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that (a) the actions of the Roads and Grounds Services to manage the flooding event and clear debris from the burns and grids across Inverclyde over a five-day period be noted, and (b) it be noted that the rainfall between 6-7 October exceeded 80mm (as recorded by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency's rainfall station, Muirshiel RG);
- (2) that it be noted that additional roads and grounds operatives attended to supplement the operatives on standby and to support the response to the event;
- (3) that it be noted that a report will be brought to the January 2024 Committee on resources required to address the development of surface water management plans and undertake coastal change adaptation planning;
- (4) that it be remitted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to bring a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the feasibility of using the site of the former Glenbrae Nursery as part of a flood management solution, subject to the approval of officer recommendations for agenda item 18 (Property Asset Management Public – Former Glenbrae Nursery); and
- (5) that it be remitted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to bring a report to a future meeting of the Committee summarising any discussions with Scottish Water regarding the management of their assets within Inverclyde.

558 Employability Update

558

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the Council's services and contracts relating to employability.

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

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to undertake a tender exercise for targeted future provision, the outcome of which will be duly reported to the Committee.

559 Firework Control Zones

559

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration (1) providing an update on the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 and associated Scottish Government Guidance, and (2) seeking approval for (a) officers to express

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

interest to the Scottish Government to develop a Firework Control Zone proposal in Inverclyde, (b) the Firework Control Zone development process, and (c) the process for Firework Control Zone Community Requests.

Decided:

- (1) that it be approved that officers will make an expression of interest to the Scottish Government to develop a Firework Control Zone proposal in Inverclyde;
- (2) that (a) the Firework Control Zone development process, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, including the provision that approval of a particular Firework Control Zone would be a decision of the Full Council, be approved; and
- (3) that the process for consideration of Community Requests, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

560 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – The Inverclyde Council Disabled Persons’ Parking Places (On-Street) Order No.4 2023 560

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) informing the Committee of the outcome of the consultation procedure undertaken for the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) entitled ‘The Inverclyde Council Disabled Persons’ Parking Places (On-Street) Order No.4 2023’ where one maintained objection has been received, and (2) seeking a decision on whether the Committee will hear the objection relating to the TRO themselves or appoint an independent reporter.

Decided:

- (1) that the requirement to hold a public hearing to consider the maintained objection be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed to hold a special meeting of the Committee to hear the objection and that it be remitted to the Head of Physical Assets and the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to make the necessary arrangements for the public hearing.

561 Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 Part 6 – Parking Prohibitions - Implications 561

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets highlighting the implications of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 in relation to parking prohibitions for pavement parking and double parking and the resource and financial implications associated with implementation and management.

Decided:

- (1) that (a) the implications of the parking prohibitions introduced by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 be noted, and (b) it be noted that the Pavement Parking Act will be enforceable from 11 December 2023, but that enforcement will not be possible in Inverclyde without the necessary funding and resources for implementation and management including the promotion of exemption orders;
- (2) that (a) the substantial work involved in assessing all the roads across Inverclyde be noted, and (b) it be noted that an initial desktop study is almost complete with results showing that over 300 roads across Inverclyde may require exemption orders;
- (3) that it be noted that additional funding is required to conclude the initial phase 1 studies and that this will be contained within the Directorate budgets;
- (4) that the additional work required to implement and manage the Act and the range of options, as detailed in section 4.5 and 4.6 of the report, be noted; and
- (5) that it be noted that the current position and the anticipated pressure on existing Roads staff who will require to answer requests and complaints about pavement parking and/or double parking in relation to the expectation that Inverclyde will implement the Act from December 2023 with Transport Scotland running a media campaign to raise awareness of the Act.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

562 Contract Awards – 1 April to 30 September 2023 562

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 April to 30 September 2023.

Councillor Cassidy declared a connection as a relative sits on the board of an organisation mentioned in the report. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and he was declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the contracts awarded by the Council during the period 1 April to 30 September 2023 be noted.

563 Annual Assurance Statement 563

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for Inverclyde Council's Annual Assurance Statement.

Decided: that the Annual Assurance Statement for 2023/24 be approved.

564 Property Asset Management Public – Former Glenbrae Nursery 564

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration making recommendations in respect of the former Glenbrae Nursery, Greenock.

Decided: that delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to remove the former Glenbrae Nursery from the market and thereafter to progress demolition and site clearance, leaving the land as open space.

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 – Former Schoolhouse Bridgend Avenue / Land at Port Glasgow Church / Housing Stock Transfer Update	6 & 9
---	------------------

565 Property Asset Management Private – Former Schoolhouse Bridgend Avenue / Land at Port Glasgow Church / Housing Stock Transfer Update 565

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

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