

## ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 18 JANUARY 2024

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### Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 18 January 2024 at 3pm

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

**Chair:** Councillor McCormick presided.

**In attendance:**

Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Julie Ann Wilson	Principal Accountant
Gerard Smith	Capital Assets Principal Accountant
Martin McNab	Public Protection Manager
Jennifer Horn	Regeneration Manager
Daniel Henderson	Planning and Building Standards Service Manager
Gordon Leitch	Team Leader (Consultancy) – Roads & Transportation
Kenny Lang	Service Manager, Grounds, Fleet & Waste Services
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' and Committee Services Team Leader

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillor Jackson attending remotely.

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

**17 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

**17**

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

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

Agenda Item 5 (Inverclyde Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2024-29) – Councillors Brooks and Curley.

Agenda Item 6 (Riverside Inverclyde/ RIPH Update) – Councillors Clocherty and Curley.

Agenda Item 7 (Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement – Local Development Plan) – Councillor Curley.

Agenda Item 10 (Public Energy and Climate Change Update) – Councillor Curley.

Agenda Item 12 (Real Time Passenger Information – Nicholson Street Bus Stances) – Councillor Brooks.

**18 2023/24 Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget at 31 October 2023**

**18**

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 October 2023.

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Mr M Thomson advised the Committee of an error in the report and accordingly the recommendation as detailed at paragraph 2.3 of the report should be disregarded as a report on the parking income shortfall is expected at the next cycle of the Committee.

**Decided:**

- (1) that (a) it be noted that the Committee's Revenue Budget is currently projected to overspend in 2023/24 by £177,000 based on figures at 31 October 2023, and (b) the actions being taken by the Director to reduce the projected overspend be noted;
- (2) that the virement as detailed in appendix 5 of the report be approved; and
- (3) that an uplift in trade waste charges of 5% in 2024/25, in addition to the general uplift approved by the Council, resulting in a total uplift of 10% in 2024/25 and 5% in 2025/26 be approved.

### 19 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme 2023/26 – Progress 19

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 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 it be remitted to officers to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the impact of cycle lanes on the transportation network.

### 20 Levelling Up Fund – Update 20

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration and Chief Financial Officer providing an update in respect of the status of the Greenock Central Levelling Up Fund Project.

**Decided:** that the current position and the progress on the Greenock Central Levelling Up Fund Project be noted.

### 21 Inverclyde Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2024-29 21

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2024-29.

Councillors Brooks and Curley declared connections 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 Strategic Housing Investment Plan for the five-year period from 2024-2029 for submission to the Scottish Government by Inverclyde Council be approved; and
- (2) that the content and projects included in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2024-2029, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be noted.

### 22 Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement – Local Development Plan 22

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There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for the draft Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement for the new Local Development Plan.

Councillor Curley declared a connection as a Member of the Joint Committee of Clydeplan. 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 (a) the contents of the report be noted; and (b) the draft Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement be approved.

### 23 Remembering Together

23

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval to support the Scottish Government's Community Arts led project Remembering Together through the installation of five labyrinths in park settings throughout Inverclyde.

**Decided:**

(1) that (a) it be agreed to support the installation of proposed labyrinths at five locations within Inverclyde, and (b) it be remitted to officers to bring a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the consultation carried out with community councils and ward members prior to the consideration of final site approval of the various sites proposed in the report; and

(2) that it be remitted to the Director, Environment & Regeneration to engage with the Ardgowan Estate to seek approval within the terms of the lease of the land at Lunderston Bay for the installation of the proposed labyrinth at Lunderston Bay and present a report to the Trustees of Birkmyre Park, Kilmacolm, similarly seeking their approval for installation of the labyrinth at Birkmyre Park, Kilmacolm.

### 24 Surface Water Management & Coastal Change Adaptation

24

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the progress of the Council's flood risk management programme in Cycle 1 and identifying the resources and actions required to address progression of Cycle 2 improvements.

**Decided:**

(1) that the current progress on the Central Greenock and other Flood Prevention Schemes be noted;

(2) that the limited remaining funding from the original approved Flood Action Plan be noted;

(3) that the use of a proportion of the remaining Flood Action Plan and/or the Coastal Change Adaption allocation to address the appointment of a temporary dedicated Flooding Engineer as detailed in section 4.2 of the report be approved; and

(4) that it be noted that additional resources will be required to address the progression of high priority projects that will be identified as part of Cycle 2 Flood Risk Management activity.

### 25 Energy & Climate Change Update

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There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on Energy and Climate Change related activity and strategy documentation/action plans.

Councillor Curley declared a connection as a Member of the Board of River Clyde Homes. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did

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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 progress and update on Net Zero Action Plan items as detailed in appendix 1 of the report be noted;
- (2) that the progress and programme for the development of the Inverclyde Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and the next stage for public consultation with the draft strategy and delivery plan included as appendices 2.1 and 2.2 of the report, be noted;
- (3) that it be agreed to seek Scottish Government funding of up to £150,000, with a 10% council funding contribution from the Net Zero capital allocation, for strategic heat network support studies;
- (4) that (a) the progress of the Greenock Waterfront District Heating study be noted, and (b) it be agreed to seek Scottish Government funding of up to £50,000 to develop the feasibility work to date through to Outline Business Case stage; and
- (5) that the Public Bodies Climate Change Report 2022/23 position, the re-baselining requirement for future years, and the summary Inverclyde emissions data as included as appendix 3 of the report be noted.

**26 Proposed Traffic Calming Measures – Union Street and Newark Street, Greenock 26**

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn.

**27 Real Time Passenger Information – Nicholson Street Bus Stances 27**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets seeking approval for the introduction of Real Time Passenger Information at the Nicholson Street bus stances, Greenock.

Councillor Brooks declared a connection as the Council's substitute representative on Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. 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 introduction of Real Time Passenger Information at the Nicholson Street bus stances, Greenock be agreed.

**28 Port Glasgow and Kilmacolm Waiting and Loading Traffic Regulation Orders (Variation Nos 8 and 9 of 2022) – Reporter's Recommendations 28**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration informing the Committee of the recommendations of the independent Reporter concerning the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) relating to proposed waiting and loading restrictions in Port Glasgow and Kilmacolm.

Following discussion Councillor McCabe moved that recommendations (2) and (3) as detailed in the report be amended to read: "(2) that it be agreed to accept the Reporter's recommendations in full in relation to TRO (Variation No. 8 of 2022) only; and (3) that (a) approval be given to the making of 'The Inverclyde Council (Various Roads) (Port Glasgow, Kilmacolm & Quarriers Village) (Waiting Restrictions) (Variation No. 8) Order 2022', and (b) it be remitted to the Head of Physical Assets and the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to arrange for its implementation."

As an amendment, Councillor Clocherty moved the recommendations contained in the report.

Following a roll call vote, 4 Members, Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, McCormick and Quinn voted in favour of the amendment and 6 Members, Councillors Brooks, Cassidy,

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Curley, Jackson, McCabe and Robertson voted in favour of the motion which was declared carried.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the recommendations of the independent Reporter in relation to the proposed TROs (Variation Nos. 8 and 9 of 2022) be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed to accept the Reporter's recommendations in full in relation to TRO (Variation No. 8 of 2022) only; and
- (3) that (a) approval be given to the making of "The Inverclyde Council (Various Roads) (Port Glasgow, Kilmacolm & Quarriers Village) (Waiting Restrictions) (Variation No. 8) Order 2022", and (b) it be remitted to the Head of Physical Assets and the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to arrange for its implementation.

### 29 UK Government Long Term Plans for Towns Fund: Greenock

29

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing information on the recently published guidance from the UK Government on the Long Term Plans for Towns.

Ms J Horn advised of a verbal update to paragraph 4.10 of the report, noting that following further clarification from the UK Government, two elected members can sit on the board and that the decision for the appointment to the board would require Council approval.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed to hold a recruitment process to appoint a Town Fund Chair;
- (3) that delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to support the Town Fund Chair in (a) the creation and membership of the Town Board, (b) creation of an engagement plan and scheme of development of the Long Term Plan for Greenock, and (c) designation of the geographical area in scope;
- (4) that the membership of the Town Fund Chair letting group be agreed;
- (5) that it be agreed to support the need for an appropriate project resource; and
- (6) that the decision on Elected Member representation on the Town Board be remitted to the full Council for consideration.

**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)
Riverside Inverclyde/ RIPH Ltd Update	6
Unit 8 Larkfield Industrial Estate, Greenock Lease Renewal	6 & 9
Property Asset Management Private – Former Office 5 Kempock Place / Former Garvel School for the Deaf	6 & 9

### 30 Unit 8 Larkfield Industrial Estate, Greenock Lease Renewal

30

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval to grant a lease at the Larkfield Industrial Estate.

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

**31 Property Asset Management Private – Former Office 5 Kempock Place / Former Garvel School for the Deaf 31**

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.

**32 Riverside Inverclyde/ RIPH Ltd Update 32**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update in respect of the activities of Riverside Inverclyde and Riverside Property Holdings Ltd (RIPH).

Councillors Clocherty and Curley declared connections as Members of the Board of Riverside Inverclyde. 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:** following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended, all as detailed in the private appendix.