

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 15 FEBRUARY 2024**

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**The Inverclyde Council**

**Thursday 15 February 2024 at 4pm**

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

**Chair:** Provost McKenzie presided.

**In attendance:**

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Vicky Pollock	Legal Services Manager
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 Councillors Daisley and McGuire attending remotely.

**76 Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

**76**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors McCormick, Nelson and Wilson.

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

Agenda Item 5 (Management Rules for Museums and Libraries in Inverclyde – Remit from the Education & Communities Committee) – Councillor Law

At the commencement of proceedings it was agreed unanimously to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the consideration of a written Notice of Motion (Closure of EE Call Centre) from Councillor McCluskey.

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

**77 Appointment Panel – Head of Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection (Shortlisting) – 6 November 2023**

**77**

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

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 15 FEBRUARY 2024**

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<b>78</b>	<b>Appointment Panel – Head of Regeneration, Planning &amp; Public Protection (Interviews) – 30 November 2023</b>	<b>78</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
<b>79</b>	<b>Human Resources Appeals Board – 5 December 2023</b>	<b>79</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Brennan.	
<b>80</b>	<b>Planning Board – 6 December 2023</b>	<b>80</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
<b>81</b>	<b>Local Review Body – 6 December 2023</b>	<b>81</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
<b>82</b>	<b>The Inverclyde Council – 7 December 2023</b>	<b>82</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Provost McKenzie.	
<b>83</b>	<b>The Inverclyde Council (Special) – 7 December 2023</b>	<b>83</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Provost McKenzie.	
<b>84</b>	<b>General Purposes Board – 13 December 2023</b>	<b>84</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
<b>85</b>	<b>Audit Committee – 9 January 2024</b>	<b>85</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Robertson.	
<b>86</b>	<b>Local Review Body – 10 January 2024</b>	<b>86</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
<b>87</b>	<b>Social Work &amp; Social Care Scrutiny Panel – 16 January 2024</b>	<b>87</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Brennan.	
<b>88</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee (Special) – 18 January 2024</b>	<b>88</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
<b>89</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee – 18 January 2024</b>	<b>89</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
<b>90</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communities Committee – 23 January 2024</b>	<b>90</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 15 FEBRUARY 2024**

---

- 91 Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel (Special) – 25 January 2024 91**  
**Approved** on the motion of Provost McKenzie.
- 92 The Inverclyde Council (Special) – 1 February 2024 92**  
**Approved** on the motion of Provost McKenzie.
- 93 Policy & Resources Committee – 6 February 2024 93**  
**Approved** on the motion of Councillor McCabe.
- 94 Planning Board – 7 February 2024 94**  
**Approved** on the motion of Councillor McVey.
- 95 Local Review Body – 7 February 2024 95**  
**Approved** on the motion of Councillor McVey.
- 96 Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel – 8 February 2024 96**  
**Approved** on the motion of Provost McKenzie.
- 97 Statutory Review of Polling Scheme 97**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (1) advising Members that there have been no representations received by interested parties on the recent Statutory Review of the Polling Scheme by the consultation deadline, (2) seeking approval of the proposed Scheme as detailed at appendix 1 to the report, and (3) noting the inclusion of additional polling districts within the new Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West County Constituency boundary as detailed in appendix 2 to the report.
- Decided:**
- (1) that it be agreed that further consultation on the proposed Polling Scheme is not required;
- (2) that the Polling Scheme as forming appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (3) that the new Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West County Constituency boundary that came into force on 29 November 2023 and which will take effect at the next UK Parliamentary General Election be noted; and
- (4) that it be agreed that delegated authority continues to be granted to the Chief Executive as Returning Officer to modify the approved Polling Scheme as may be necessary in situations of need and also to make any alternative or emergency arrangements as may be necessary in the interests of voters.
- 98 Interim Monitoring Officer Arrangements 98**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (1) seeking approval to appoint a Monitoring Officer on an interim basis pending the completion of the recruitment for a permanent replacement to the current Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services, who currently holds the position of Council’s Monitoring Officer, and (2) noting

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 15 FEBRUARY 2024**

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the additional temporary resources that will be brought in to support delivery of the General Election which is expected to take place in 2024.

**Decided:** that (a) the contents of the report be noted, and (b) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to appoint an Interim Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services who will also act as the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer and Clerk to the Licensing Board.

**99 Management Rules for Museums and Libraries in Inverclyde – Remit from the Education & Communities Committee 99**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting that the Council consider a remit from the Education & Communities Committee of 23 January 2024 regarding the formal approval of the Management Rules for Museums and Libraries in Inverclyde.

Councillor Law declared a connection as a regular volunteer at the Watt Museum. She also formed the view that the nature of her connection and of the item of business did not preclude her continued presence in the meeting or her participation in the decision-making process and was declaring for transparency.

**Decided:** that (a) the Libraries Management Rules and Museums Management Rules as appended to the report be approved, and (b) delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to take all actions necessary to formally make the said Rules in accordance with the statutory procedure for the same.

**100 Elected Membership Representation on Town Board – Remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee 100**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting that the Council consider a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 18 January 2024 regarding the nomination of two Elected Members to sit on a Town Board in line with the UK Government guidance on the Long Term Plans for Towns.

**Decided:** that Councillors Brennan and Robertson be appointed to sit on the Town Board on behalf of Inverclyde Council.

**101 Literati Guide to Inverclyde and the Spring Clean 2024 – Notice of Motion by Councillor McCluskey 101**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of the receipt of a Notice of Motion received from Councillor McCluskey, countersigned by Councillor Cassidy, in the following terms:

“Council notes:

1. Literati Guide to Inverclyde have co-ordinated regular litter picks and occasional corporate litter picks across Inverclyde for over 6 years.
2. In the first 3 weeks of this year 47 volunteers picked 90 bags of rubbish.
3. As an anchor group of Keep Scotland Beautiful, the Literati Guide to Inverclyde are planning a series of litter picks covering the entire length of Inverclyde's shoreline and surrounding areas.
4. These will take place between 15<sup>th</sup> March and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 as part of Keep Scotland Beautiful's Spring Clean 2024.
5. There is evidence that 80% of the litter in our rivers and oceans comes from the land so by keeping the beaches clean we can improve the quality of our seas for the marine life.

Council believes:

1. The Literati Guide to Inverclyde have made a significant contribution to keeping Inverclyde beautiful.
2. Our coastline is one of our area's greatest natural assets and needs to be kept clean and maintained.
3. It is important that we encourage people to take responsibility for our natural environment.

Council resolves:

1. To congratulate the Literati Guide to Inverclyde and volunteers on their work to keep Inverclyde beautiful.
2. To promote the Spring Clean 2024 and local events through the Council's networks.
3. To encourage members of the community to take part in Spring Clean 2024.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Notice of Motion by Councillor McCluskey as set out above be agreed, and
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to (a) promote the Spring Clean 2024 and local events through the Council's networks; and (b) encourage members of the community to take part in the Spring Clean 2024.

**The Provost being of the opinion that the undernoted motion was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Council to consider at the earliest opportunity Councillor McCluskey's motion following the recent announcement by the BT Group of the planned closure of the EE call centre in Greenock.**

102

#### **Closure of EE Call Centre – Notice of Motion by Councillor McCluskey**

102

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of the receipt of a Notice of Motion received from Councillor McCluskey, countersigned by Councillor Clocherty, in the following terms as amended at the meeting: "Council notes:

1. The announcement by BT Group that they plan to close the EE call centre building in Greenock.
2. Around 450 people are employed at site and most of the workforce are drawn from the Inverclyde area.
3. While there are no redundancies, this removes a significant number of jobs from the local area, with a knock-on effect on the local economy that is likely to get worse over time.
4. Despite repeated calls for financial support, the Scottish Government has so far not provided a penny of support in response to job losses over the past year and has not responded to calls made by the Inverclyde Socioeconomic taskforce for more investment six months ago.

Council believes:

5. In the past year alone, around 1,000 jobs have been lost from the Inverclyde area because of site closures.
6. Each job lost represents a loss to the individual, but also a loss to the Inverclyde economy. We cannot afford to lose more jobs from the area.

Council resolves:

7. To ask the Leader of the Council to communicate the Council's opposition to these job cuts to BT Group and the Scottish and UK Governments.
8. To work with BT Group and the Scottish and UK Governments to establish if there is a way to keep the site open and to keep jobs in Inverclyde, and to direct the services and resources of the Council and our partners to help the 400+ staff members who are

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 15 FEBRUARY 2024**

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directly affected in this context, subject to any necessary Council approvals being obtained in the normal way.

9. To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Scottish Government expressing our frustration that they have not come forward with any funds to support the Inverclyde economy in response to the requests from the Inverclyde taskforce.

10. To request BT to articulate fully the legacy arrangements that they will put in place:-  
Legacy for staff – travel/childcare/flexible working/packages proportionate to length of service.

Legacy for site – there is a long relationship with this site as an employment route for people in Inverclyde and we should be pressing for alternative uses for the site to be considered at pace.”

The meeting adjourned at 4.20pm and reconvened at 4.25pm.

In response to Members’ questions and at the invitation of the Provost, Councillor McCabe and the Director of Regeneration and Planning provided Members with a verbal update on the progression of discussions with BT since the announcement, and the actions taken to date.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Notice of Motion by Councillor McCluskey, as amended at the meeting and set out above, be agreed; and

(2) that it be remitted to officers to take all appropriate actions required and as detailed above to facilitate the terms of the Notice of Motion.

**Private Appendices to Minutes**

<b>103</b>	<b>Appointment Panel – Head of Regeneration, Planning &amp; Public Protection (Shortlisting) – 6 November 2023</b>	<b>103</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
<b>104</b>	<b>Appointment Panel – Head of Regeneration, Planning &amp; Public Protection (Interviews) – 30 November 2023</b>	<b>104</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
<b>105</b>	<b>Human Resources Appeals Board – 5 December 2023</b>	<b>105</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Brennan.	
<b>106</b>	<b>Social Work &amp; Social Care Scrutiny Panel – 16 January 2024</b>	<b>106</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Brennan.	
<b>107</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee – 18 January 2024</b>	<b>107</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
<b>108</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communities Committee – 23 January 2024</b>	<b>108</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
<b>109</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee – 6 February 2024</b>	<b>109</b>

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