

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meetings of the Inverclyde Council,
Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Boards to be
submitted
to the Meeting of The Inverclyde Council on**

Thursday 13 June 2024

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 25 APRIL 2024

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 25 April 2024 at 4pm

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

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Vicky Pollock	Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources (for Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development)
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Neale McIlvanney	Head of Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection (for Director Environment & Regeneration)
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Alison Ramsey	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Law, McCabe, McCluskey, McCormick and Quinn attending remotely.

204 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

204

No apologies for absence were intimated.

Councillor McCluskey declared an interest in additional item 'Reinstatement of Out of Hours GP Provision in Inverclyde – Notice of Motion by Councillor Clocherty'.

Certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:
Agenda Item 5 (Motion in Support of WASPI Women – Notice of Motion by Councillor Armstrong) – Councillors Armstrong, McCabe, McGuire and Reynolds.

At the commencement of proceedings it was agreed unanimously to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the consideration of two additional items: 'SNP Group Representation on the Audit Committee' and 'Reinstatement of Out of Hours GP Provision in Inverclyde – Notice of Motion by Councillor Clocherty'.

The Provost referred to the upcoming charity fundraising event 'Kiltwalk' on Saturday 28 April 2024 and wished all participants from Inverclyde, including Councillor Moran and a number of Council staff, a successful day.

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

205 The Inverclyde Council – 15 February 2024

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	Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.	
206	Appointment Panel – Shortlisting - Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services – 21 February 2024	206
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Robertson.	
207	Grants Sub-Committee – 26 February 2024	207
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Brooks.	
208	The Inverclyde Council (Special) – 29 February 2024	208
	Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.	
209	Audit Committee – 5 March 2024	209
	Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.	
210	Planning Board – 6 March 2024	210
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
211	Local Review Body – 6 March 2024	211
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
212	Appointment Panel – Interviews - Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services – 11 March 2024	212
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Robertson.	
213	Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel – 12 March 2024	213
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Brennan.	
214	General Purposes Board – 13 March 2024	214
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
215	Environment & Regeneration Committee – 14 March 2024	215
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	
216	Education & Communities Committee – 19 March 2024	216
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
217	Policy & Resources Committee – 26 March 2024	217
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe.	

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218	Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel – 28 March 2024	218
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
219	Planning Board – 3 April 2024	219
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
220	Local Review Body – 3 April 2024	220
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
221	General Purposes Board – 10 April 2024	221
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
222	Formal Withdrawal from the Clydeplan Joint Committee and Elected Membership Representation on the Regional Spatial planning Committee – Remit for the Environment & Regeneration Committee	222
	There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting that the Council consider a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 14 March 2024 regarding (1) the formal withdrawal from the Clydeplan Joint Committee and transfer of requisition funding to Glasgow City Council as lead authority for the Glasgow City Region, and (2) seeking two Elected Member nominations to sit on a new outside body, the Regional Spatial Planning Committee.	
	Decided:	
	(1) that it be agreed that the Council formally withdraws from the Clydeplan Joint Committee and that requisition funding be transferred to Glasgow City Council as lead authority for the Glasgow City Region; and	
	(2) that Councillor McVey and Councillor Wilson be appointed to sit on the Regional Spatial Planning Committee.	
223	Capital Strategy 2024-2034 and Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25–2027/28 – Remit from the Policy & Resources Committee	223
	There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting that the Council consider a remit from the Policy & Resources Committee of 26 March 2024 seeking approval of the Capital Strategy 2024-35 and the Treasury management and Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25-2027/28.	
	Decided:	
	(1) that the Capital Strategy 2024-34 be approved; and	
	(2) that the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2024/25-2027/28 be approved.	
224	Motion in Support of WASPI Women – Notice of Motion by Councillor Armstrong	224
	There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services advising of the receipt of a Notice of Motion received from Councillor Armstrong, countersigned by Councillor Reynolds, in the following terms:	

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“Following the findings of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman Inverclyde Council reaffirms support for WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) women as per previous motions in 2017 and 2021 attached at Appendix 1. Background information is provided at Appendix 2.

Inverclyde Council notes the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman’s findings that, since 1995 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has failed to provide accurate, adequate and timely information about areas of State Pension reform. The investigation found maladministration and injustice.

Inverclyde Council finds the Department of Work and Pensions’ failure to acknowledge maladministration unacceptable.

Inverclyde Council finds the indication that the Department of Work and Pension will refuse to comply with the Ombudsman’s recommendations unacceptable.

Inverclyde Council notes that the Ombudsman laid their report before Parliament in an attempt to reach a speedy conclusion to these matters under s10(3) Parliamentary Commissioner Act and asked Parliament to identify a mechanism for providing appropriate remedy for those who have suffered injustice.

Whilst we concur with the UK’s National Ombudsman’s recommendation that the women affected are owed compensation, noting the Ombudsman’s recommendation that those affected be compensated at Level 4 injustice (£1,000 to £2,950) acknowledging that a significant and/or lasting injustice has, to some extent, affected WASPI women’s ability to live relatively normal lives, Inverclyde Council continues to support the WASPI campaign claim for compensation at a higher level and calls on the current UK government, failing which the incoming UK government, to bring forward an equitable compensation scheme without delay.

Inverclyde Council asks the Council Leader to write to Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions asking that the 5,600 local women believed to be affected be compensated without delay. The Council Leader is further asked to highlight the very considerable difference between the compensation sought by the WASPI campaign, backed by the APPG, and that recommended by the Ombudsman and to ask that compensation also be paid to the estates of the almost 275,000 WASPI women who have died waiting for this injustice to be rectified.”

Councillors Armstrong and Reynolds declared a connection as WASPI women and Councillors McCabe and McGuire declared a connection as a close family member of a WASPI woman. They all also formed the view that the nature of their connection and of the item or 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 Notice of Motion by Councillor Armstrong as set out above be agreed; and
- (2) that it be agreed that the Leader of the Council (a) writes to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions asking that the 5,600 local women believed to be affected be compensated without delay, (b) highlight the very considerable difference between the compensation sought by the WASPI campaign, backed by APPG, and that recommended by the Ombudsman, and (c) ask that compensation also be paid to the estates of the almost 275,000 WASPI women who have died waiting for this injustice to be rectified.

The Provost being of the opinion that the undernoted reports were relevant, competent and urgent moved their consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Council to consider at the earliest opportunity (1) the report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services on the SNP Group Representation on the Audit Committee following a request made by the SNP Group, and (2) Councillor Clocherty’s motion following notice that Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Health Board will make a decision on the future of the GP Out of Hours service on 30 April 2024.

225 SNP Group Representation on the Audit Committee

225

There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting that the Council (1) consider a change proposed by the SNP Group to its membership of the Audit Committee, that Councillor Curley replace Councillor Nelson, and (2) thereafter appoint a Convenor for the Audit Committee and confirm the Special Responsibility Allowance currently allocated to that position.

Following agreement that Councillor Curley replace Councillor Nelson on the Audit Committee, Councillor Robertson seconded by Councillor Armstrong moved that Councillor Curley also be appointed as Convenor of the Audit Committee.

As an amendment, Councillor Brooks seconded by Councillor Clocherty moved that Councillor Wilson, the current Vice Convenor of the Audit Committee, be appointed as Convenor.

Following a roll call vote, 7 Members, Councillors Armstrong, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Law, Reynolds and Robertson voted for the motion, and 11 Members, Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Jackson, McCabe, McCluskey, McCormick McGuire, Moran and Wilson voted for the amendment, which was declared carried. Provost McKenzie and Councillors McVey and Quinn abstained.

At the conclusion of the voting process for the role of Convenor, as detailed above, nominations were sought for the role of Vice Convenor of the Audit Committee, and it was agreed that Councillor Curley be appointed.

Decided:

- (1) that agreement be given to Councillor Curley replacing Councillor Nelson as the SNP Group representative on the Audit Committee;
- (2) that Councillor Wilson be appointed as Convenor of the Audit Committee and that the Special Responsibility Allowance currently allocated to that position be confirmed; and
- (3) that it be agreed that Councillor Curley be appointed as Vice Convenor of the Audit Committee.

226 Reinstatement of Out of Hours GP Provision in Inverclyde – Notice of Motion by Councillor Clocherty

226

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

1. That Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board will make a decision on the future of GP Out of Hours service on Tuesday 30th April.

Council resolves:

1. To restate our opposition to Greater Glasgow and Clyde’s proposals and the Council’s decision of 7th December to call for the reinstatement of a GP out of hours centre seven days a week in Inverclyde.
2. To request the Leader of the Council writes to the Chair and Chief Executive of Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and copies in the Health Minister informing them of the contents of this motion.

Councillor McCluskey declared an interest in this item as a Board Member of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board and left the meeting for the consideration of this item.

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Decided:

- (1) that the Notice of Motion by Councillor Clocherty as set out above be agreed, and
- (2) that it be agreed that the Leader of the Council write to the Chair and Chief Executive of Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and copies in the Health Minister informing them of the contents of this motion.

Councillor McCluskey returned to the meeting at this juncture.

227 Remembering Together Labyrinth at Birkmyre Park, Kilmacolm – Remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee 227

There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting the Council, as Trustees of the Birkmyre Trust, consider a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 14 March 2024 seeking consent for the installation of a Remembering Together Labyrinth at Birkmyre Park, Kilmacolm, this matter also having been considered at their meeting on 16 January 2024.

Decided: that the Council as Trustees of the Birkmyre Trust:

- (1) grant permission for the installation of the Remembering Together Labyrinth, as detailed in the appendices to the report, at Birkmyre Park, Kilmacolm; and
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to consider the practicalities and legalities of expediting the decision-making process for matters concerning the Birkmyre Trust.

Private Appendices to Minutes

228 Appointment Panel – Shortlisting - Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services – 21 February 2024 228

Approved on the motion of Councillor Robertson.

229 Appointment Panel - Interviews - Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services – 11 Mach 2024 229

Approved on the motion of Councillor Robertson.

230 General Purposes Board – 13 March 2024 230

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

231 Environment & Regeneration Committee – 14 March 2024 231

Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.

232 General Purposes Board – 10 April 2024 232

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

PLANNING BOARD – 1 MAY 2024

Planning Board

Wednesday 1 May 2024 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, Law, McCabe, McGuire and McVey.

Chair: Councillor McVey presided.

In attendance:

Neale McIlvanney	Head of Service - Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection
Daniel Henderson	Planning and Building Standards Service Manager
Elaine Provan	Supervisory Engineer – Traffic & Transportation
Steven Walker	Service Manager - Roads
Jim Kerr	Solicitor (for Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Alison Ramsey	Communications Officer (Media Relations)

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

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

233 APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 233

No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

234 PLANNING APPLICATIONS 234

- (a) Development of retirement flats and associated car parking (planning permission in principle):
Site at corner of Main Street and Langhouse Road, Inverkip (23/0122/IC)**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration for the development of retirement flats and associated car parking (planning permission in principle) at a site on the corner of Main Street and Langhouse Road, Inverkip (23/0122/IC).

Decided: that planning permission in principle be granted subject to the following conditions and following the conclusion of a Section 75 Legal Agreement requiring that the development remain as retirement flats for the lifetime of the development and that 25% of the units on site shall be affordable housing:-

- (1) that the development to which this planning permission in principle relates must be begun within 5 years from the date of this permission, to comply with Section 59(2A)(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended);
- (2) that development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed site layout. The proposed layout shall be shown on a plan at a scale of 1:500 showing the position of the proposed flats (ensuring the established building line is respected at the site frontage), footpaths, means of access, parking areas and any vehicular turning areas, to ensure the Planning Authority has the

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necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location;

(3) that development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specific in conditions has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority relating to the position of the front elevations of the blocks, which ensures no direct access to the premises from these elevations, to ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location;

(4) that for the avoidance of doubt the application submitted in relation to condition 2 above shall allow for the following:

i) parking shall be provided in accordance with the National Guidelines for retirement flats;

ii) the parking spaces within car parks shall be a minimum of 2.5m by 5.0m with a minimum aisle spacing of 6.0m;

iii) the frontage access to the blocks shall not be on Main Street;

iv) the applicant shall show a visibility splay of 2.4m x 43m x 1.05m from the access on to Langhouse Road, to be kept clear in perpetuity;

v) the applicant shall show the footpaths within the site and how the buildings will be accessed from the carparks. The footpaths within the site shall be a minimum of 2.0m wide;

to ensure the development has the appropriate amount of parking;

(5) that development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed floor plans and elevations of the proposed development and shall show dimensions as well as the type and colour of all external materials and wheelchair access arrangements, for the avoidance of doubt the blocks shall not exceed 3 storeys in height, to ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location;

(6) that development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the type and colour of all hard surfacing materials to be used on hardstanding areas, to ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location;

(7) that development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed ground levels throughout the site and proposed finished floor levels of the development in relation to a fixed datum point. The application shall include existing ground levels taken from the same fixed datum point, to ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location;

(8) that development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the planning authority relating to all walls (including any retaining walls) and fences to be erected on site, to ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location;

(9) that development shall not commence until an application for approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the details of surface water management and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems proposals. For the avoidance of doubt the surface water management for the proposed development shall be contained/attenuated within the site before discharging to the public system and shall be restricted to greenfield runoff rates, to ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location;

(10) that development shall not commence until an application for approval of matters has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the

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proposed landscaping/planting at the site. Details of the scheme shall include (as appropriate):

- i) details of any earth mounding, hard landscaping, grass seeding and turfing;
- ii) a scheme of tree and shrub planting, incorporating details of the number, variety and size of trees and shrubs to be planted; and
- iii) the phasing/timescale for carrying out these works;

thereafter the matters that are approved shall be implemented in their approved form in the first planting season following completion of the dwellinghouse, to ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location;

(11) that prior to the commencement of development, confirmation of connection to Scottish Water's Network shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure Scottish Water's acceptance of the drainage regime for the application site and in the interests of the provision of a satisfactory drainage regime;

(12) that development shall not commence until details/plans of the bin stores/containers to be used to store waste materials and recyclable materials at the development as well as details of the areas where such containers are to be located have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Following approval the bin stores/containers shall be implemented by first occupation of any of the flats, to ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location;

(13) that prior to the start of development, details of a survey for the presence of Japanese Knotweed 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 Japanese Knotweed in the interests of environmental protection;

(14) that the development shall not commence until an Environmental Investigation and Risk Assessment, including any necessary Remediation Strategy with timescale for implementation, of all pollutant linkages has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the Planning Authority. The investigations and assessment shall be site-specific and completed in accordance with acceptable codes of practice. The remediation strategy shall also include a Verification Plan. Any subsequent modifications to the Remediation Strategy and Verification plan must be approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation, to satisfactorily address potential contamination issues in the interests of environmental safety;

(15) that on completion of remediation and verification works and prior to the site being occupied, the developer shall submit a Completion Report for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority, confirming that the works have been carried out in accordance with the remediation strategy. This report shall demonstrate that no pollutant linkages remain or are likely to occur and include (but not limited to) a collation of verification/validation certificates, analysis information, remediation lifespan, maintenance/aftercare information and details of all materials imported onto the site as fill or landscaping material. The details of such materials shall include information of the material source, volume, intended use and chemical quality with plans delineating placement and thickness, to provide verification that remediation has been carried out to the Authority's satisfaction;

(16) that the presence of any previously unrecorded contamination or variation to reported ground conditions that becomes evident during site works shall be brought to the attention of the Planning Authority and amendments to the Remediation Strategy (i.e. that has not been included in contingency) 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;

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(17) that the development shall be designed to ensure that at least 25% 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, details of which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to commencement of any construction works on site, to comply with the requirements of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;

(18) that for the avoidance of doubt the development shall include Electric Vehicle Charging Points. 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 Points. Thereafter the approved details shall be implemented on site in their approved form before the first occupation of any flat in the development, in the interests of sustainable development and to accord with the Inverclyde Council Supplementary Guidance on Energy; and

(19) that development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority which demonstrates that a minimum of 5% of the residential units to be constructed on site shall be fully wheelchair accessible, to ensure provision of wheelchair accessible housing in accordance with Policy 21 of the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7 MAY 2024**Audit Committee****Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 3pm**

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Crowther, Curley, McCabe, McCluskey, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Robertson and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Vicky Pollock	Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP) (for Chief Officer, Inverclyde HSCP)
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Gerard Smith	Capital Assets Principal Accountant
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen McVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

In attendance also Michael Wilkie, Director KPMG

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Provost McKenzie and Councillors McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McVey and Robertson attending remotely.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener conveyed his thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Committee to the previous Convener, Councillor Innes Nelson, and wished him well for the future.

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

Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

235 An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Reynolds. **235**

No declarations of interest were intimated.

236 **Internal Audit Progress Report – 31 January to 31 March 2024** **236**

There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services appending the monitoring report in respect of Internal Audit activity for the period 31 January to 31 March 2024.

Decided:

(1) that the progress made by Internal Audit in the period from 31 January to 31 March

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7 MAY 2024

2024 be noted; and

(2) that it be noted that the 2024/25 Internal Audit Plan will be presented to the Audit Committee on 27 June 2024.

- 237 External Audit Action Plans – Current Actions 237**
- There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services on the status of current actions from External Audit Action Plans as at 31 March 2024. Prior to discussion on this item, the Convener welcomed to the meeting Michael Wilkie, Director KPMG.
- Decided:** that the progress made in the implementation of External Audit actions be noted.
- 238 External Audit Plan for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 238**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer presenting the External Audit Plan for the year ended 31 March 2024 produced by KPMG.
- Decided:** that the External Audit Plan for the year ended 31 March 2024 be noted.

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 8 MAY 2024

General Purposes Board**Wednesday 8 May 2024 at 3.00pm**

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

Chair: Councillor Moran presided.

In attendance:

David Keenan	Solicitor (for Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services)
Fiona Denver	Senior Paralegal Licensing Officer
Siobhan MacMaster	Solicitor
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer

In attendance also: Sergeant I Robertson (Police Scotland).

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

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

239 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 239

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

Councillor McCluskey declared an interest in Agenda Item 2 (Application for Grant of a Short Term Let Licence).

Councillor Curley declared an interest in Agenda Items 3 and 4 (two separate reports which the Board considered as one item: Application for Grant of a Short Term Let Licence).

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 paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

240 Application for Grant of a Short Term Let Licence 240

There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting the Board to consider the application for grant of a Short Term Let Licence which was granted, all as detailed in the private appendix.

Councillor McCluskey declared an interest in this item and left the meeting, all as detailed in the private appendix.

241 Applications for Grant of a Short Term Let Licence (x2) 241

There were submitted two separate reports by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services which the Board considered as one item requesting the Board to consider applications for grant of Short Term Let Licences which were granted, all as detailed in

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 8 MAY 2024

the private appendix.

Councillor Curley declared an interest in these items and left the meeting, all as detailed in the private appendix.

242 Request for Suspension of Taxi Driver's Licence 242

There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting the Board to consider (1) the immediate suspension of a Taxi Driver's Licence, and (2) whether to further suspend the licence as the Board may determine, to which the Board decided to (1) uphold the immediate suspension of the Taxi Driver's Licence, and (2) that the suspension be lifted and the licence reinstated, all as detailed in the private appendix.

243 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence 243

There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting the Board to consider an application for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence which was refused, all as detailed in the appendix.

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 14 MAY 2024

Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, 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)
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor (for Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services)
Jonathan Hinds	Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services (Inverclyde HSCP)
Alan Best	Interim Head of Health & Community Care (Inverclyde HSCP)
Gail Hughes	Interim Service Manager for Justice Social Work (Inverclyde HSCP)
Marie Keirs	Senior Finance Manager (Inverclyde HSCP)
Ian Hanley	Community Justice Lead Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Lesley Cockburn	Homeless Change Lead (Inverclyde HSCP)
Jim Kearns	External Consultant – Homelessness/Housing Access Specialist
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Alison Ramsey	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Cassidy, Daisley and Quinn attending remotely.

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

244 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 244

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Provost McKenzie.

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

Agenda item 4 (Stock Transfer Authorities Homelessness Performance 2022/23) – Councillor Brooks

Agenda item 8 (Inverclyde Integration Joint Board Budget 2024/26) – Councillors McCluskey, Quinn and Reynolds

Agenda item 9 (Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations) – Councillor Cassidy

245 Revenue & Capital Budget Report – 2023/24 Revenue Outturn Position as at 29 February 2024 245

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 14 MAY 2024

Partnership and the Head of Finance, Planning & Resources, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, on the projected outturn on revenue and capital for 2023/24 as at 29 February 2024.

Decided:

- (1) that the projected current year revenue outturn of £0.710million overspend at 29 February 2024 be noted;
- (2) that the current projected capital position be noted; and
- (3) that the current reserves position and the intention to allocate any year end overspend against appropriate reserves be noted.

246 National Care Service Update 246

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, providing an update on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill and national developments in this regard.

Decided: that the update on national activity around the proposed National Care Service (Scotland) Bill as detailed in the report be noted.

247 Stock Transfer Authorities Homelessness Performance 2022/23 247

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing detail on the comparative performance of homelessness services across the six Large Scale Voluntary Transfer authorities in Scotland. The Panel heard a presentation, with PowerPoint slides, entitled 'Scotland's Housing Network – Inverclyde Council – Performance Analysis Visit 2022/23' by the Homeless Change Lead, Inverclyde HSCP, and Mr Kearns, an external consultant, who thereafter answered a number of questions from Members.

Councillor Brooks declared a connection in this item as a member of River Clyde Homes Board. 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 was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report, which provides a data driven view to both positive achievements and the direction of travel, be noted;
- (2) that the proposed joint development of a temporary Local Lettings Initiative to increase the percentage of allocations to homeless households across the Inverclyde Registered Social Landlords, which would serve to increase choice and control for households in crisis and improve tenancy sustainment figures and prevent costly repeat homelessness, be noted; and
- (3) that the thanks and appreciation of the Panel be extended to all staff connected with this work.

248 Publication of Care Inspectorate Report: Prison Based Social Work: Thematic Review 248

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership appending the Prison Based Social Work Thematic Review report by the Care Inspectorate and HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland for noting. The Panel heard a presentation by the Interim Service Manager for Justice Social Work, Inverclyde HSCP, on various aspects of the report, who thereafter answered a number of questions from Members.

Decided:

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 14 MAY 2024

- (1) that the publication of the Prison Based Social Work Thematic Review and the proposed next steps be noted; and
 (2) that the content of the presentation be noted.

249 Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2024 249

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (1) providing an update on the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership, and (2) advising of the proposed publication of the Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2024, a copy of which was appended to the report. The Panel heard a presentation, with PowerPoint slides, by the Community Justice Lead Officer, Inverclyde HSCP, on various aspects of the Plan, who thereafter answered a number of questions from Members.

Decided: that the intention of the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership to submit the Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2024 to the Inverclyde Alliance Board for approval in June 2024 be noted.

250 Inspection of Inverclyde Fostering, Adoption and Continuing Care Services 250

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising that the Care Inspectorate have notified their intention to inspect Adoption, Fostering and Continuing Care Services in Inverclyde over a four-week period commencing on 22 April 2024.

Decided:

- (1) that the commencement of the inspection be noted; and
 (2) that it be remitted to officers to submit a further report to the Panel following publication of the Inspection Report.

251 Inverclyde Integration Joint Board Budget 2024/26 251

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board (IJB) budget for 2024/26 which was presented to the IJB at their meeting on 25 March 2024.

Councillors McCluskey, Quinn and Reynolds declared a connection in this item as members of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection 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 IJB budget for 2024/26 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 & 9 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

252 Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations 252

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.

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 14 MAY 2024

Councillor Cassidy declared a connection in this item as a relative is a member of a Board mentioned within 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 was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the governance report for the period 10 February 2024 to 12 April 2024 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.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 16 MAY 2024

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 16 May 2024 at 3pm

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
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Neale McIlvanney	Head of Service - Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Julie Ann Wilson	Principal Accountant
Jennifer Horn	Regeneration Manager
Martin McNab	Public Protection Manager
Daniel Henderson	Planning and Building Standards Service Manager
Steven Walker	Service Manager - Roads
Kenny Lang	Service Manager, Grounds, Fleet & Waste Services
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor (for Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

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

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

253 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

253

No apologies for absence were intimated.

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

Agenda Item 8 (Glasgow City Region – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Collaboration) – Councillor Curley.

Agenda Item 12 (Contract Awards – 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024) – Councillors Clocherty and Robertson.

Agenda Item 13 (Property Asset Management Public Report – Remarketing of 80 Leven Road, Greenock; Results of public consultations at lower Kempock Street, Gourrock and Wateryetts Drive, Kilmacolm) – Councillors Brooks and Curley.

Agenda Item 14 (Property Asset Management Private Report – Proposed Disposal of land at Wateryetts Drive, Kilmacolm; Proposed lease of land at lower Kempock Street, Gourrock; update on former Tied Housing; Hillend Bowling Club – Renunciation of Lease) – Councillors Brooks and Curley.

254 2023/24 Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget Update

254

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 16 MAY 2024

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.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the Committee's Revenue Budget is currently projected to overspend in 2023/24 by £169,000;
- (2) that it be noted that the 2023/24 outturn will be reported to Committee after the summer recess; and
- (3) that the re-allocation of Shared Prosperity Fund underspend to support the projects as detailed in paragraph 3.6 of the report be approved.

255 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme 2024/28 – Progress

255

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 2024/28 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme.

Following discussion, Councillor Brooks moved that the recommendations contained in the report be agreed, subject to an additional recommendation (4) that (a) it be agreed to pause Phase 2 of the West Blackhall Street works, and (b) it be remitted to officers to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the impact of Phase 1 of the West Blackhall Street works on businesses located on the street.

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

Following a roll call vote, 2 Members, Councillors Brooks and Nelson voted in favour of the motion and 9 Members, Councillors Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, Quinn and Robertson voted in favour of the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position and progress on the specific projects of the 2024/28 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 Core Property budget be noted; and
- (3) that the on-going work in respect of the further identification of projects relating to Net Zero and allocation of funds from the Net Zero Capital budget be noted.

256 Environment and Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Annual Refresh and Performance Summary 2023/24

256

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration presenting the refreshed Environment & Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan, which contains new or revised improvement actions requiring approval.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in the delivery of the Environment & Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/24 be noted; and
- (2) that the refreshed Environment & Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan, which will be implemented from 2024/25 onwards, be approved.

257 Supplementary Planning Guidance – Short Term Lets

257

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 16 MAY 2024

There was submitted a report by the Head of Service – Regeneration, Planning and Public Protection seeking approval for the supplementary guidance in relation to planning applications for short term lets.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the supplementary planning guidance policy on short term lets, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, as a basis for supporting the determination of applications for planning permission for short term lets; and
- (2) that it be remitted to the Head of Service – Regeneration, Planning and Public Protection to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the implications of the Judicial Review of the City of Edinburgh’s Short Term Let policy.

258 Corporate Asset Management Strategy 2024 – 2028 258

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the progress in respect of the refresh of the Council’s Corporate Asset Management Strategy.

Decided:

- (1) that the 2024-2028 Corporate Asset Management Strategy be approved;
- (2) that the proposal to review and refresh the individual asset sub-groups to develop longer term costed asset plans be noted; and
- (3) that (a) the progression of the refresh of the 5 year external condition surveys of all property assets be approved, and (b) that it be agreed to remit the report to the Policy & Resources Committee seeking approval of £0.200m from the 2023/26 Capital Programme contingency.

259 Roads Asset Management Strategy 2024 – 2029 259

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn.

260 Glasgow City Region – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Collaboration 260

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration (1) providing an update on the work undertaken to develop a collaborative approach to expanding the public electric vehicle charging infrastructure network across the eight local authorities of Glasgow City Region, and (2) seeking approval for the next steps required to progress towards a commercial delivery arrangement.

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 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 content of the report and the collaborative work undertaken to date be noted;
- (2) that the participation of Inverclyde in a collaborative procurement to engage a commercial partner via a concession type contract through a partnership with all eight local authorities in the Glasgow City Region, to deliver the benefits as set out in paragraphs 3.9 – 3.16 of the report, be approved;
- (3) that (a) it be agreed in principle to enter into an Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) among the eight local authorities, (b) delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to enter into the IAA, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services, and (c) delegated authority be granted to the subsequent nomination of a lead authority for the service delivery period as well as procurement and commercial decisions relating to the commencement and

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 16 MAY 2024

consultation of the procurement process to the Director Environment & Regeneration in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and Monitoring Officer, in line with the approach set out in paragraphs 3.29 – 3.33 of the report;

(4) that it be agreed that the Glasgow City Region (GCR) Programme Management Office, through Glasgow City Council, will utilise local authorities Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund allocations to engage programme management and expert technical consultancy support that will assist in taking a GCR proposition to market and subsequent appointment of a commercial partner;

(5) that it be noted that officers will provide update reports on the progress of the work to the Environment & Regeneration Committee as required throughout the development of the project, with such reports being at the most appropriate frequency, but will also include specific and immediate reports if at any point the financial implications for this proposal differ from that outlined within the report; and

(6) that it be remitted to the Head of Physical Assets to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on Inverclyde Council's electric vehicle charging fees compared with private companies and other local authorities.

261 Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan 261

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets providing an update on the Inverclyde Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan.

Decided: that (a) the public consultation exercise of the Inverclyde Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be noted, and (b) the final strategy and delivery plan as detailed in appendices 2 and 3 of the report be approved.

262 Energy & Climate Change – Net Zero Action Plan Annual Progress Review / Scottish National Adaption Plan Consultation 262

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on (1) the progress made against the approved Net Zero Action Plan 2022/27, and (2) a further Energy and Climate Change related Scottish Government public consultation and the Council's response.

Decided:

(1) that the current position and the progress on the specific actions of the 2022/27 Net Zero Action Plan as outlined in the report and appendix A be noted; and

(2) that the draft Scottish National Adaption Plan (2024 – 2029) Consultation and Inverclyde Council's response as detailed in appendix B of the report be noted.

263 Play Area Spend Update 2024/25 263

There was submitted a report by the Head of Service – Regeneration, Planning and Public Protection providing an update in respect of the proposed play area projects to be undertaken within the 2024/25 Play Area Strategy.

Decided: that the proposed play area projects identified within the report be agreed.

264 Contract Awards – 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024 264

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 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Councillor Clocherty declared a connection as a Member of the Board Inverclyde Community Development Trust and Councillor Robertson as a Member of the Board of an organisation mentioned in the report. They also formed the view that the nature of their

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 16 MAY 2024

connection 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: that the contracts awarded by the Council during the period 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024 be noted.

265

Property Asset Management Public Report – Remarketing of 80 Leven Road, Greenock; Results of public consultations at lower Kempock Street, Gourrock and Wateryetts Drive, Kilmacolm

265

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration (1) seeking consent to remarket the former community centre at 80 Leven Road, Greenock as the previous bidder is no longer interested in acquiring the facility, and (2) advising of the outcome of two consultation processes recently completed in relation to (a) a proposal to lease an area of ground at lower Kempock Street, Gourrock, and (b) a proposal to dispose of an area of land at Wateryetts Drive, Kilmacolm, to which areas the public currently have access.

Councillors Brooks and Curley declared a connection as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection 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.

The Head of Physical Assets advised of a verbal update to the report in relation to the Remembering Together Labyrinths, advising that following the decision of the March Committee, Rig Arts have now engaged with the Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council on a location adjacent to the Wemyss Bay Community Centre building within land in the Council's ownership and therefore he would ask the Committee for consideration to support this final location on the same basis of the previous approval on the March Committee.

Decided:

(1) that (a) it be noted that the trustees of the Redeemed Christian Church of God are no longer interested in acquiring the property at 80 Leven Road, Greenock and that negotiations with this party have now come to an end as they have failed to progress missives, and (b) delegated authority be granted to remarket the property with immediate effect;

(2) that (a) the outcome of the public consultation in relation to the proposed lease of land at lower Kempock Street, Gourrock, the terms of the representations received and any response to those representations, as detailed in appendix 3 of the report, be noted, and (b) having regard to those representations, it be agreed to further consider the terms of the proposed lease as detailed in the private report that is before the Committee for later consideration;

(3) that the outcome of the open space consultation in relation to the proposed disposal of land at Wateryetts Drive, Kilmacolm, the terms of the representations received and any responses to those representations, as detailed in appendix 5 of the report, be noted prior to consideration of the recommendations in the private report that is before the Committee;

(4) that in relation to the proposed disposal of land at Wateryetts Drive, Kilmacolm, the terms of the proposed sale as detailed in the private report that is before the Committee for later consideration be considered and noted; and

(5) that the Committee grant consent for the installation of the Remembering Together Labyrinth at the Council owned land adjacent to the Wemyss Bay Community Centre building.

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 & 9 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

266 **Property Asset Management Private Report – Proposed Disposal of land at Wateryetts, Drive Kilmacolm; Proposed lease of land at lower Kempock Street, Gourrock; update on former Tied Housing; Hillend Bowling Club – Renunciation of Lease** 266

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration (1) advising the Committee of activities relating to the management of the Council's property assets and (2) making recommendations in this regard.

Councillors Brooks and Curley declared a connection as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection 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.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 MAY 2024

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 21 May 2024 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Crowther (for Law), Daisley, McGuire (for Communities business only), McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson.

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, Digital & Customer Services)
Hugh Scott	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Iain Cameron	Principal Accountant (Education & Communities)
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Sarah Christie	Cultural Services Manager
Mark Coyle	Project Lead – Scottish Attainment Challenge, Education Services
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader

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

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

267 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

267

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Law, with Councillor Crowther substituting, Councillor McGuire (for Education business only), Ms F MacDonald, Parent Representative, Ms P McEwan, Teachers Representative, and Mr J Docherty and Rev D Burt, Church Representatives.

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

Agenda Item 2 (2023/24 Communities Revenue Budget Update) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

Agenda Item 5 (Changes to Community Grants Fund) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

268 2023/24 Communities Revenue Budget Update

268

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the projected position of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 MAY 2024

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection 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 current projected underspend for 2023/24 of £193,000 be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that £121,000 of the projected underspend relates to Inverclyde Leisure utility costs and that this budget over provision will be returned to the non-pay inflation contingency from 2024/25, in line with the treatment of windfall savings; and
- (3) that it be noted that the 2023/24 outturn will be reported after the summer recess.

269 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items

269

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing performance information for the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing 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 2024/28 Capital Programme be noted;
- (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (b) Community Hub King George VI, (c) Bank Street Community Hub (32nd Scouts), (d) Parklea Branching Out, (e) Hillend Bowling Club, and (f) the Asset Transfer Working Group updates on (i) Gourrock Park Walled Garden, (ii) Wellington Allotments, (iii) KGV Bowling Club, and (iv) Coppermine (Scouts); and
- (3) that the Convenor write to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Committee to (a) express disappointment at the decision to reduce funding for the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund budget which has led to 32nd Scouts being unsuccessful at Stage 2 of the application process for Bank Street Community Hub, (b) requests if there are any alternative funding sources that could be approached, and (c) clarify the position for funding going forward and if existing applications will have priority over any new applications.

270 Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives

270

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

Decided: that the updates on the following be noted (a) Alliance Board Partnership Plan Delivery Structure, (b) Locality Plan Progress and Review, (c) Inverclyde Fire Skills Course, (d) International Women's Day, (e) Early Adopter Community for Affordable Childcare, and (f) Child Poverty Accelerator Funding.

271 Changes to Community Grants Fund

271

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to make changes to the criteria for the Community Grants Fund from 2024/25.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection 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:

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 MAY 2024

- (1) that the virement of £30,000 in respect of playschemes to contribute to the provision of free playschemes be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed that the current arrangements for other ringfencing arrangements should cease but that the Grants Sub-Committee be instructed to continue to give an annual grant to the Samaritans without application and that the officer recommendation for the amount for this grant take into account the totality of the available funding and the impact that this has on other applications;
- (3) that the strengthening of the grant criteria for groups be agreed in order to ensure that a condition of grant is that recipients must not only be supporting the aims of the Council Plan but also not acting against the interests of the Council; and
- (4) that it be noted that officers will provide a further update report should further changes to the grants criteria be proposed by Elected Members.

The Communities business concluded at 2.35pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm.

272 2023/24 Education Revenue Budget Update

272

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the projected position of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget and highlighting the reasons for the increase in the projected overspend and action being taken by officers.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend for 2023/24 of £939,000 and the £778,000 increase in overspend since the last Committee be noted, and that a report will be brought to Committee after the summer recess on any expected impact on the 2024/25 Budget;
- (2) that it be noted that the Communities part of the Committee is currently projecting an underspend of £193,000 which partly offsets the projected overspend for the Education part of the Committee; and
- (3) that it be noted that the 2023/24 outturn will be reported to Committee after the summer recess.

273 Education Capital Programme 2024/28 - Progress

273

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 2024/28 Capital programme be noted;
- (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) general lifecycle works, (b) Reinforced Aerated Autoclave Concrete (RAAC), (c) CO² monitors in schools, and (d) Universal Free School Meals; and
- (3) that it be noted that there are no plans to carry out any remediation works arising from the RAAC at St Michael's Primary School in the period to 31 March 2026 and that this will be kept under review and Committee informed of any changes to this approach.

274 Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 – Annual Refresh and Performance Summary 2023/24

274

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

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 MAY 2024

Organisational Development presenting the refreshed Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan containing new or revised improvement actions requiring approval.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in the delivery of the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/24 be noted; and
- (2) that the implementation of the refreshed Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan from 2024/25 onwards be approved.

275 Education Services Standards and Quality Report April 2023 – April 2024 275

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the Education Services Standards and Quality Report for April 2023 - April 2024 for consideration and approval.

Decided: that the Education Services Standards and Quality Report for April 2023 - April 2024 be approved for content and publication.

276 Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 276

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 for Lady Alice Primary School Nursery Class, (b) Independent Review of Qualifications and assessment, (c) Education and skills reform, (d) Pupil Equity Funding (PEF), (e) Equality in Education – ant-racism in education, (f) Children’s Advocacy in children’s hearings, (g) Secondary Gaelic Medium Education update, and (h) teacher numbers update; and
- (2) that the thanks and appreciation of the Committee be conveyed to all staff at Lady Alice Primary School for the successful Care Inspectorate inspection outcomes recently received.

277 Strategic Equity Fund (SEF) Plan 2024 - 2026 with Associated Stretch Aims Update 277

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee note (1) the updated Strategic Equity Funding (SEF) Plan 2024 – 2026, and (2) the Strategic Equity Fund Exit Strategy.

Decided:

- (1) that the content and publication of the SEF Plan for 2024 – 2026, including the detailed Stretch Aims, as detailed at appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the content of the SEF Exit Strategy, as detailed at appendix 2 to the report, be noted; and
- (3) that it be remitted to officers to provide a report to the Committee analysing school attendance figures.

278 Report on Primary Enhanced Nurture Provision 278

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the development of a primary enhanced nurture provision called Thrive which is based at St Michael’s Primary School.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and the success of the primary enhanced nurture

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provision called Thrive as part of the Delivering Differently Project at Lomond View Academy be noted.

279 Update on West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative**279**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of plans for the West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative following the national review of Regional Improvement Collaboratives undertaken by the Scottish Government and the associated reduction in funding for 2024-25 onwards.

Decided: that the content of the report be noted.