

**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**

**205**

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 25 APRIL 2024**

---

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

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 25 APRIL 2024**

---

<b>218</b>	<b>Local Police &amp; Fire Scrutiny Panel – 28 March 2024</b>	<b>218</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
<b>219</b>	<b>Planning Board – 3 April 2024</b>	<b>219</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
<b>220</b>	<b>Local Review Body – 3 April 2024</b>	<b>220</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
<b>221</b>	<b>General Purposes Board – 10 April 2024</b>	<b>221</b>
	<b>Approved</b> on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
<b>222</b>	<b>Formal Withdrawal from the Clydeplan Joint Committee and Elected Membership Representation on the Regional Spatial planning Committee – Remit for the Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>222</b>
	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.	
	<b>Decided:</b>	
	(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.	
<b>223</b>	<b>Capital Strategy 2024-2034 and Treasury Management Strategy Statement &amp; Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25–2027/28 – Remit from the Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>	<b>223</b>
	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.	
	<b>Decided:</b>	
	(1) that the Capital Strategy 2024-34 be approved; and	
	(2) that the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2024/25-2027/28 be approved.	
<b>224</b>	<b>Motion in Support of WASPI Women – Notice of Motion by Councillor Armstrong</b>	<b>224</b>
	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:	

## THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 25 APRIL 2024

---

“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 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Council resolves:

1. To restate our opposition to Greater Glasgow and Clyde’s proposals and the Council’s decision of 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 25 APRIL 2024**

---

**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.