

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13 AUGUST 2024

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 13 August 2024 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Brennan (for McCluskey), Cassidy (for McGuire), Crowther (for Armstrong), Curley, Law, McCabe, McCormick, McVey, Robertson and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Lynsey Brown	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Angela Edmiston	Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Strategic Finance)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance and Communications Manager

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

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

340 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 340

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Armstrong with Councillor Crowther substituting, Councillor McCluskey with Councillor Brennan substituting and Councillor McGuire with Councillor Cassidy substituting.

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

Agenda Item 6 (Allocation of funding for events and projects to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Port Glasgow becoming a burgh) – Councillor Law

341 Revenue Budget Outturn 2023/24 341

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer advising the Committee of (1) the unaudited outturn of Service Committee Budgets for the year ending 31 March 2024 (2) Period 11 Revenue Budget reports, and (3) the outturn per the 2023/24 Unaudited Accounts.

Decided:

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(1) that the Service Committee overspend per the Unaudited Accounts for 2023/24 of £545,000, the reasons for the material variances from budget, and the movement of £50,000 from Period 11 to the unaudited outturn be noted;

(2) that it be noted that officers will identify where there are any matters which will impact on the delivery of the 2024/26 Budget; and

(3) that it be noted that further details on the 2023/24 outturn will be submitted to individual Committees as part of the first 2024/25 Revenue Budget Monitoring Reports.

342 Capital Programme Outturn 2023/2024

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer advising on the delivery of the 2023/24 Capital Programme and highlighting issues which are expected to continue to impact upon the delivery of the Capital Programme.

Decided: that (a) the improved 2023/24 Capital Outturn position be noted, and (b) it be noted that officers continue to take account of the on-going challenges in delivering capital projects when estimating the planned 2024/25 expenditure levels approved by the Council in March 2024.

343 Treasury Management – Annual Report 2023/24

343

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) advising of the operation of the treasury function and its activities for 2023/24 as required under the terms of Treasury Management Practice 6 (TMP6) on 'Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements', and (2) requesting that the report be remitted to the Full Council for approval.

Decided:

(1) that the contents of the annual report on Treasury Management for 2023/24 and the impact of higher than forecast interest rates in 2023/24 be noted; and

(2) that the report be remitted to the Full Council for approval.

344 2024/25 Budget Update

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an initial update on the position of the 2024/25 Budget, (2) highlighting new pressures not factored into the approved budget and (3) providing CMT recommendations as to next steps.

Decided:

(1) that the potential 2024/25 Budget pressures identified in the report and the proposals from the CMT be noted; and

(2) that it be agreed (a) to delegate to the Chief Executive the progression of targeted Voluntary Early Release trawls to assist in the development of savings proposals to address the recurring impact from 2025/26 on the understanding that the focus will be on service redesigns with limited impact on service delivery and that no employee would be released without the agreement of the Committee/Council.

345 Allocation of funding for events and projects to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Port Glasgow becoming a burgh

345

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking authority to allocate £40,000 from the Common Good fund to create a number of events to mark the 250th anniversary of Port Glasgow becoming a burgh.

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Councillor Law declared a connection as an employee of Historic Scotland who is engaged in work to prepare Newark Castle for the Port Glasgow 250th anniversary event. 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 she was declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the use of £40,000 from the Common Good fund to develop a number of events to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Port Glasgow becoming a burgh be approved.

346 Corporate Self-Assessment of Best Value Performance**346**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing an update on the recent corporate self-assessment, which focused on the Council's Best Value performance.

Decided:

- (1) that the development of a 'Corporate Self-Assessment of Best Value Performance' report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that six monthly progress reports on the delivery of the Improvement Plan will be brought to the Committee.