

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2024

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 13 June 2024 at 4pm

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

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Lynsey Brown	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Allan MacDonald	Digital & Customer Service Manager
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance and Communications Manager

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Armstrong, Daisley, Jackson, Law, McCluskey, McCormick, McGuire, Quinn and Reynolds attending remotely.

Reverend Jonathan Fleming opened proceedings with a reflection and prayer.

310 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 310

No apologies for absence were intimated.

Certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:
Agenda Item 8 (Inverclyde Council Byelaws for the Regulation of the Cleaning of Common Property) – Councillors Brooks and Curley.

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

311 The Inverclyde Council – 25 April 2024 311

Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.

312 Planning Board – 1 May 2024 312

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

313 Audit Committee – 7 May 2024 313

Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.

314 General Purposes Board – 8 May 2024 314

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Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

315 Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel 315

Approved on the motion of Councillor Brennan.

316 Environment & Regeneration Committee – 16 May 2024 316

Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.

317 Education & Communities Committee – 21 May 2024 317

Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.

318 Policy & Resources Committee – 4 June 2024 318

Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe.

319 Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel – 6 June 2024 319

Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.

320 Scheme of Administration – Political Balance 320

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of the necessary requirements to ensure, as far as practicable, political balance on Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies, where appropriate, following the resignation from the SNP Group of Councillor Innes Nelson, who has entered into an affiliation with the Conservative Group, and the resignation of Councillor Lynne Quinn from the Internal Independent Coalition. The report also requested the Council nominate an Elected Member to be appointed by the Scottish Ministers to Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board following the resignation of Councillor Martin McCluskey from the Board.

The Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advised the Council that the Elected Member appointments as set out in the Appendix document which had been shared with all Elected Members prior to the meeting did not achieve complete political balance but was as close as is practicable at present.

The Appendix was moved by Provost McKenzie and seconded by Councillor McVey. There being no amendments to this, the motion was unanimously agreed.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms and content of the report and separately circulated Appendix with regard to the re-balancing of Committees be noted and approved;
- (2) that it be noted a report will be presented to a future meeting of the Council following a review of the appropriateness of Council nominations to the Boards of organisations which tender for Council contracts;
- (3) that Councillor Robert Moran be nominated to be appointed by the Scottish Ministers to Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board; and
- (4) that the membership of Inverclyde Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Boards, together with Convenors and Vice-Convenors, be as follows:

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Councillor McCabe | 7. Councillor Law |
| 2. Councillor McCluskey | 8. Councillor Armstrong |
| 3. Councillor McCormick | 9. Councillor McVey |
| 4. Councillor McGuire | 10. Councillor Wilson |
| 5. Councillor Robertson | 11. Councillor Nelson |
| 6. Councillor Curley | |

Convenor: Councillor McCabe
Vice-Convenor: Councillor McCluskey

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Councillor McCormick | 7. Councillor Robertson |
| 2. Councillor Cassidy | 8. Councillor Crowther |
| 3. Councillor Clocherty | 9. Provost McKenzie |
| 4. Councillor Jackson | 10. Councillor Quinn |
| 5. Councillor McCabe | 11. Councillor Brooks |
| 6. Councillor Curley | |

Convenor: Councillor McCormick
Vice-Convenors: Councillor Cassidy (Environment)
 Councillor Clocherty (Regeneration)

EDUCATION & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Councillor Clocherty | 7. Councillor Law |
| 2. Councillor Brennan | 8. Councillor Nelson |
| 3. Councillor McGuire | 9. Councillor Quinn |
| 4. Councillor Moran | 10. Councillor McVey |
| 5. Councillor Robertson | 11. Councillor Wilson |
| 6. Councillor Armstrong | |

Church Representatives: Rev D Burt, Rev F Donaldson, Mr J Docherty

Parent Representative: Ms F MacDonald

Teacher Representative: Ms P McEwan

Convenor: Councillor Clocherty

Vice-Convenor: Councillor Brennan (Education)
 Councillor McGuire (Communities)

SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Councillor Jackson | 7. Councillor Armstrong |
| 2. Councillor McCluskey | 8. Councillor Daisley |
| 3. Councillor Brennan | 9. Councillor Reynolds |
| 4. Councillor Cassidy | 10. Provost McKenzie |
| 5. Councillor Clocherty | 11. Councillor Brooks |
| 6. Councillor Robertson | |

Convenor: Councillor Brennan
Vice-Convenor: Councillor McCluskey

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Councillor McCabe | 7. Councillor Curley |
| 2. Councillor McGuire | 8. Councillor Reynolds |
| 3. Councillor McCluskey | 9. Councillor McVey |

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- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4. Councillor McCormick | 10. Councillor Nelson |
| 5. Councillor Robertson | 11. Councillor Wilson |
| 6. Councillor Crowther | |

Convener: Councillor Wilson

Vice-Convener: Councillor Curley

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Councillor Brennan | 7. Councillor Armstrong |
| 2. Councillor McCluskey | 8. Councillor Reynolds |
| 3. Councillor Cassidy | 9. Councillor Quinn |
| 4. Councillor Moran | 10. Provost McKenzie |
| 5. Councillor Curley | 11. Councillor Wilson |
| 6. Councillor Crowther | |

Chair: Councillor Moran

Vice-Chair: Councillor Curley

PLANNING BOARD

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Councillor McCabe | 7. Councillor Curley |
| 2. Councillor McGuire | 8. Councillor Law |
| 3. Councillor Clocherty | 9. Provost McKenzie |
| 4. Councillor Jackson | 10. Councillor McVey |
| 5. Councillor Armstrong | 11. Councillor Brooks |
| 6. Councillor Crowther | |

Chair: Councillor McVey

Vice-Chair: Councillor Curley

HUMAN RESOURCES APPEALS BOARD

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Councillor Brennan | 4. Councillor Daisley |
| 2. Councillor Clocherty | 5. Councillor Quinn |
| 3. Councillor Law | |

Convener: Councillor Brennan

Vice-Convener: Councillor Clocherty

POLICY & RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Councillor McCabe | 4. Councillor Curley |
| 2. Councillor McCluskey | 5. Councillor McVey |
| 3. Councillor Robertson | 6. Councillor Wilson |

Convener: Councillor McCabe

Vice-Convener: Councillor McCluskey

GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Councillor Brennan | 4. Councillor Reynolds |
| 2. Councillor McGuire | 5. Provost McKenzie |
| 3. Councillor Crowther | 6. Councillor Brooks |

Chair: Councillor Brooks

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LOCAL REVIEW BODY

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Councillor Clocherty | 5. Councillor Curley |
| 2. Councillor McCabe | 6. Councillor McVey |
| 3. Councillor McGuire | 7. Councillor Brooks |
| 4. Councillor Crowther | |

Chair: Councillor McVey
Vice-Chair: Councillor Curley

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Councillor Brennan | 7. Councillor Law |
| 2. Councillor Clocherty | 8. Councillor Reynolds |
| 3. Councillor Moran | 9. Councillor Quinn |
| 4. Councillor McGuire | 10. Provost McKenzie |
| 5. Councillor Crowther | 11. Councillor Wilson |
| 6. Councillor Daisley | |

Chair: Councillor Wilson
Vice-Chair: Provost McKenzie

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Councillor Cassidy | 4. Councillor Daisley |
| 2. Councillor McCabe | 5. Provost McKenzie |
| 3. Councillor Curley | 6. Councillor Brooks |

Convener: Councillor Curley
Vice-Convener: Provost McKenzie

321 Decision of the Standards Commission Hearing

321

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising the Council of the decision of the Standards Commission for Scotland following a hearing into a complaint against Councillor Innes Nelson held on 10 April 2024. **Decided:** that the decision of the Standards Commission's hearing relative to Councillor Nelson be noted.

322 Administrative Arrangements: Cycle of Council, Committee, Sub-Committee, Panel and Board meetings to June 2025

322

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services setting out for approval the schedule of Committee cycles for the period to June 2025.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed cycle of Council, Committee, Sub-Committee, Scrutiny Panel and Board meetings for the year to June 2025 as detailed in the report and appendix be approved; and
- (2) that it be noted that a private meeting of the Audit Committee will be arranged with the Council's Chief Internal Auditor and external auditors, further to the Audit Committee improvement plan approved by that Committee at its meeting on 25 April 2023, and that this meeting will be arranged in advance of the Council's consideration of its audited accounts following the 2024 summer recess.

323 Finance Strategy 2024/34 – 6 monthly update

323

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer presenting the updated Financial Strategy for review and approval.

Decided:

- (1) that (a) the latest update to the Council's Financial Strategy, including the updated funding models in the appendices, be approved, and (b) the continued significant financial challenges for both the UK and Scottish Governments be noted;
- (2) that the remaining mid-range estimated 2025/28 funding gap of £13.8million after assuming a 7% increase in Council Tax in 2025/26, as detailed at table 4a of the Financial Strategy, be noted;
- (3) that it be noted that, whilst the Council approved a 2-year Revenue Budget on 29 February 2024, there will be the need to review all reserves and financial models to take account of prevailing interest and inflation forecasts as part of the December Financial Strategy; and
- (4) that agreement be given to (a) the transfer of £800,000 from the Capital Fund to Loans Charges in 2027/28 to largely offset a short-term deficit in the Loans Charges model, and (b) the transfer £646,000 from the Budget Development earmarked reserve to the Internal Resources Interest (IRI) funding model as part of the 2023/24 Year End Accounts to reflect the full over-recovery of IRI in 2022/23.

324 Review of Health and Social Care Integration Scheme

324

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

325 Inverclyde Council Byelaws for the Regulation of the Cleaning of Common Property

325

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting that the Council considers the proposal to revoke the Inverclyde Council Byelaws for the regulation of the Cleaning of Common Property.

Decided:

- (1) that a proposed resolution to revoke the Byelaws in terms of section 202C of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 be agreed;
- (2) that the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services be authorised to take all action which is required to advertise the proposed resolution to revoke the Byelaws; and
- (3) that the intention of the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to report back to the Council on the outcome of the statutory consultation in connection with the proposed resolution be noted, and that thereafter authority will subsequently be sought from the Council to pass the resolution to revoke the Byelaws.

326 Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive (Emergency Powers) in respect of (a) livestreaming of committee meetings; (b) postponement of electrical testing contract, Greenock Municipal Buildings, Greenock, and (c) amendment of polling scheme

326

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of the use of Emergency Powers by the Chief Executive to (a) approve the temporary cessation of relevant committee and board livestreaming in the period leading up to the UK Parliamentary General Election, (b) note the emergency postponement of the contract for electrical survey work in the Greenock Municipal Buildings, Greenock, and, (c) note the use of the discretionary powers granted to the

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Chief Executive as Returning Officer to amend the 2024 Polling Scheme to delete premises that have become unavailable for use and to substitute premises nearby at the Sommerville and Weir Building, Faith Avenue, Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir.

Decided: that it be noted that the Chief Executive used their powers under the Council's Scheme of Delegation (Officers) to approve the actions as detailed in the report.

327 Further Education Colleges Lecturer's Pay Dispute – Notice of Motion by Councillor Brennan 327

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

“Council notes with deep concern the ongoing national pay dispute involving college lecturers across Scotland and the resultant industrial action by members of EIS-FELA (Further Education Lecturers' Association) who have now waited almost two years for an increase in pay.

Council further notes the significant detrimental impact that this dispute has had on the learning of Inverclyde students attending West College Scotland and other further education colleges across Scotland over the past two academic years.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and the Minister for Higher and Further Education seeking their urgent intervention in this dispute with the aim of securing a resolution as soon as possible in the interests of Inverclyde's further education students.”

Decided:

- (1) that the Notice of Motion by Councillor Brennan as set out above be agreed, and
- (2) that it be agreed that the Chief Executive write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and the Minister for Higher and Further Education seeking their urgent intervention in this dispute with the aim of securing a resolution as soon as possible in the interests of Inverclyde's further education students.

Private Appendices to Minutes

328 General Purposes Board – 8 May 2024 328

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

329 Environment & Regeneration Committee – 16 May 2024 329

Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.