
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	5 December 2024
Report By:	Chief Financial Officer	Report No:	FIN/84/24/AP
Contact Officer:	Alan Puckrin	Contact No:	01475 712090
Subject:	Request for a Special Meeting of Inverclyde Council		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek Council agreement for a Special Meeting of the Council to be held on 23 January 2025 at 4.00pm to consider a number of matters relating to the 2025/26 Budget.
- 1.3 The Scottish Government is expected to announce the individual council grant settlement figures on 12 December and an All-Member Briefing has been arranged for the 18 December to give an overview of the settlement and its impact on the 2025/26 Budget funding gap.
- 1.4 To ensure that savings which involve the release of employees can be delivered timeously, it is proposed that the Council holds a Special Council Meeting on 23 January to allow the appropriate notice to impacted employees to be given.
- 1.5 The meeting would also consider proposals around Budget Pressures, Savings Workstreams and the write-back/reallocation of Revenue Reserves.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council agree to hold a Special Meeting of the Council on 23 January 2025 at 4.00pm to receive an update on the 2025/26 grant settlement and to take a number of decisions relating to the 2025/26 Budget.

Alan Puckrin
Chief Financial Officer

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Scottish Government is expected to announce the individual council grant settlement figures on 12 December and an All-Member Briefing has been arranged for the 18 December to give an overview of the settlement and its impact on the 2025/26 Budget funding gap.
- 3.2 The November Policy & Resources Committee received an update on a number of areas relating to the 2025/26 Budget including Budget Pressures, Savings Workstreams and the write-back and reallocation of available reserves.
- 3.3 The CMT have developed savings proposals, and these are presently being discussed with the Trades Unions and Members Budget Working Group (MBWG) with those associated with Savings Workstreams/Service Reviews also being discussed at the Programme Board. The results of Voluntary Early Release (VER) trawls have been analysed and offers have been issued to employees, these being subject to the decisions ultimately taken by elected members.
- 3.4 The results of Voluntary Early Release (VER) trawls have been analysed and offers have been issued to employees, these being subject to the decisions ultimately taken by elected members. In order to optimise savings in 2025/26 and reduce the need for further savings, decisions early in 2025/26 are required.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that a number of decisions relating to the 2025/26 Budget are taken in January 2025 in order to reduce the need for further savings and to provide clarity to those employees who have received a conditional offer of early release.
- 4.2 An earlier meeting will also address a number of the less contentious items relating to the budget and leave the scheduled meeting of the 27 February to focus on the final actions required to balance the 2025/26 Budget including approving the level of Council Tax.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation is agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial	x	
Legal/Risk		x
Human Resources		x
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		x
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		x
Environmental & Sustainability		x
Data Protection		x

5.2 Finance

Delaying decisions around the release of employees until the next scheduled meeting of the Council will reduce the level of savings achievable in 2025/26 and increase the level of savings ultimately required.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

There are no legal/risk matters arising.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no HR matters arising.

5.5 Strategic

There are no strategic matters arising.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Corporate Management Team support the proposal in this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.