

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 24 OCTOBER 2024

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 24 October 2024 at 4:00pm

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

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Lynsey Brown	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Craig Given	Chief Finance Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (for Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership)
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources (for Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development)
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Angela Edmiston	Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Strategic Finance)
Gerard Smith	Principal Accountant (Capital Assets)
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Emma Peacock	Solicitor, Legal Services
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

In attendance also:

Michael Wilkie	KPMG (External Auditors)
Taimoor Alam	KPMG (External Auditors)

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

474 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Armstrong and Nelson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

475 2023/24 Annual Audit Report and Best Value Thematic Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive presenting (1) the Annual Audit Report, and (2) the Best Value Thematic Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2024 for consideration.

There were circulated copies of an addendum containing proposals for revised

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recommendations to the report, which were further amended verbally at the meeting by the Chief Financial Officer, and accordingly revised recommendation 2.4 in the addendum should read 'It is recommended that the Council note the potential material prior year adjustment advised by the External Auditors at today's meeting in respect of the Pension Fund liabilities and, that on the basis this has no impact on the 31 March 2024 position reported in the accounts in Appendix 3 , authorise the Chief Financial Officer to make the necessary adjustments, if required, as part of the delegated authority requested in 2.6 below.' (the verbal amendment being that as underlined).

Mr Wilkie from KPMG spoke to the report and commented on the status of the Pension Fund liabilities relating to the previous Annual Audit for 2022/23 and the net presentation of funded and unfunded liabilities. Mr Wilkie advised that due to the funded and unfunded pension liabilities not being presented separately in 2022/23 that assessments would be undertaken by both Inverclyde Council and KPMG as to whether this required a restatement for the year 2022/23. Mr Wilkie emphasised that this matter had been resolved for the current year and therefore the current years closing financial position as presented was correct.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the Best Value Thematic Report will also be considered at the next meeting of the Audit Committee in January 2025;
- (2) that the Action Plans, as contained within the Annual Audit Report, and the Best Value Thematic Report be approved;
- (3) that the potential material prior year adjustment advised by the External Auditors at the meeting in respect of the Pension Fund liabilities be noted and, that on the basis this has no impact on the 31 March 2024 position reported in the accounts at appendix 3 to the report, the Chief Financial Officer be authorised to make necessary adjustments, if required, as part of the delegated authority requested in decision (5) below;
- (4) that approval be given to the signing of the Letter of Representation, as detailed at appendix 4 to the report, by the Chief Financial Officer;
- (5) that (a) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Financial Officer to make any non-material adjustments which may arise from the remaining audit work, and (b) the signing of the Annual Accounts for Inverclyde Council for the Financial Year 2023/24 by the Council Leader, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer be approved;
- (6) that it be remitted to officers to present a final set of accounts to the next meeting of the Council for noting; and
- (7) that the Council's thanks to the Chief Financial Officer and his team be noted.