



**Minutes of Meetings of the Inverclyde Council,
Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Boards
to be submitted
to the Meeting of The Inverclyde Council on**

Thursday 27 February 2025

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 4 DECEMBER 2024

Local Review Body

Wednesday 4 December 2024 at 4pm

Present: Councillors Brooks, Clocherty, McCabe, McGuire, McVey and Nelson.

Chair: Councillor McVey presided.

In attendance:

Katrine Dean	Planning Officer (Planning Adviser)
Emma Peacock	Solicitor (Legal Adviser)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillor Clocherty, McCabe and McGuire attending remotely.

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

563 APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 563

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Crowther and Councillor Curley.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

564 CONTINUED PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW 564

(a) Proposed holiday lodges, support and administration building and access road: Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Inverkip (22/0259/IC)

There was submitted papers relative to the application for review for proposed holiday lodges, support and administration building and access road at Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Inverkip (22/0259/IC) to enable the Local Review Body to consider the matter afresh consideration of which had been continued from the meeting held on 2 October 2024 for an unaccompanied site visit.

Prior to the commencement of this item of business, Councillors Brooks indicated that he was not entitled to take part in consideration of this item of business, having not been present at previous considerations, and left the meeting.

Ms Dean acted as Planning Adviser relative to this case.

Ms Dean referred to decision 2 of the Decision Notice relative to the application, advising that Policy 8 of NPF4 does not apply in this case as this site is in the countryside and Policy 8 applies to greenbelt land. Ms Dean also referred to a typographical error in the Decision Notice, and accordingly, reference to "Policy 15 of the adopted Local Development Plan" should read "Policy 14 of the adopted Local Development Plan.

After discussion, Councillor McVey moved that (1) sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and (2) the application for review be upheld and that planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:

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1. that the development to which this permission relates must have commenced within 3 years from the date of this permission, to comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended);
2. that prior to the commencement of any construction works on site, the applicant shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority a site plan, which confirms the provision of one car parking space for each two bedroom lodge and two car parking spaces for each three bedroom lodge. For the avoidance of doubt the parking spaces shall be a minimum of 3.0m by 6.0m and the approved parking shall then be available for use prior to the first occupation of each lodge, in the interests of pedestrian and traffic safety;
3. that development shall not commence until details/samples of all external finishes on the buildings have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. For the avoidance of doubt this relates to the type, finish and colour of all external materials on each new building. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form, in the interests of visual amenity;
4. that development shall not commence until detailed specification of the type and colour of all hard surfacing to be used on hardstanding areas have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form, in the interests of visual amenity;
5. that development shall not commence until details/plans of the proposed finished floor levels of each of the buildings hereby approved, as well as any changes to ground levels within the site, have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The details to be submitted shall relate to a fixed datum point. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form, in the interests of visual amenity;
6. that prior to the commencement of any development works on site, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of the Planning Authority, a survey for the presence of Japanese Knotweed. For the avoidance of doubt; this shall contain a methodology and treatment statement where any is found. Development shall not proceed until appropriate control measures are implemented. Any significant variation to the treatment methodology shall be submitted for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation, to ensure the remediation scheme meets regulatory requirements and all contamination and Japanese Knotweed concerns are managed appropriately;
7. that development shall not commence until details of bin stores/containers to be used to store waste materials and recyclable materials as well as specific details of the areas where these are to be located have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form before first occupation of the administration/office building or first use of lodges hereby permitted, to protect the amenity of the immediate area, prevent the creation of nuisance due to odours, insects, rodents or birds;
8. that the administration/office building and lodges hereby approved shall be designed to ensure that at least 25% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation and operation of low and zero carbon generating technologies. Development shall not commence until details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed low and zero carbon generating technologies to be installed in the buildings. Thereafter the approved low and zero carbon generating technologies shall be implemented in their approved form before the first occupation of the administration/office building or lodges, to comply with the requirements of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;
9. that prior to the commencement of development, confirmation of connection to Scottish Water's Network shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning

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Authority, to ensure Scottish Water's acceptance of the drainage regime for the application site and in the interests of the provision of a satisfactory drainage regime;

10. that the development hereby permitted shall not commence until an Environmental Investigation and Risk Assessment, including any necessary Remediation Scheme with timescale for implementation, of all pollutant linkages has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the Planning Authority. The investigations and assessment shall be site-specific and completed in accordance with current codes of practice. The submission shall also include a Verification Plan. Any subsequent modifications to the Remediation Scheme and Verification Plan must be approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation, to satisfactorily address potential contamination issues in the interests of human health and environmental safety;

11. that before the development hereby permitted is occupied the applicant shall submit a report for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority, confirming that the works have been completed in accordance with the agreed Remediation Scheme and supply information as agreed in the Verification Plan. This report shall demonstrate that no pollutant linkages remain or are likely to occur and include (but not limited to) a collation of verification/validation certificates, analysis information, remediation lifespan, maintenance/aftercare information and details of all materials imported onto the site as fill or landscaping material. The details of such materials shall include information of the material source, volume, intended use and chemical quality with plans delineating placement and thickness, to ensure contamination is not imported to the site and confirm successful completion of remediation measures in the interest of human health and environmental safety;

12. that for the avoidance of doubt, the presence of any previously unrecorded contamination or variation to anticipated ground conditions that becomes evident during site works shall be brought to the attention of the Planning Authority and a Remediation Scheme shall not be implemented unless it has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure that all contamination issues are recorded and dealt with appropriately;

13. that prior to the commencement of use of the development hereby permitted, the applicant shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority, a site plan which demonstrates an access from Dunrod Road, which shall be a minimum of 5.5m wide for a distance of 10m from the edge of road, at a maximum gradient of 10%; the single-track road within the shall be a minimum of 3.5 wide with intervisible passing places no more than 200m apart; the combined width of single-track road plus passing bay shall be 5.5 metres over a length of 15m to allow the safe passage of bin vehicles; tapers 5m long shall be provided at each end; and turning heads at the end of each access near lodge plots 3 and 12 shall be to National Guidelines requirements. Thereafter the access and road arrangement finally agreed shall be constructed and retained for the lifetime of the development, in the interests of traffic and pedestrian safety;

14. that for the avoidance of doubt, a visibility splay at the site access onto Dunrod Road of 2.4m x 160.0m x 1.05m shall be provided and maintained for the lifetime of the development, in the interests of traffic and pedestrian safety;

15. that prior to the commencement of use of the development hereby permitted, the applicant shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority, a site plan which demonstrates pedestrian access between all lodges and the administration/office building. Thereafter the pedestrian access arrangements finally agreed shall be constructed and retained for the lifetime of the development, in the interests of traffic and pedestrian safety; and

16. that prior to the commencement of any development works on site, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of the Planning Authority, full details of how all surface water run off shall be retained within the site both during construction and on completion of the development. Thereafter the surface water run off shall be retained within the site

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in accordance with the detail finally approved, for the lifetime of the development, in the interests of visual amenity.

As an amendment, Councillor McGuire moved that (1) sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and (2) that the application for review be dismissed and that planning permission be refused (upholding the Appointed Officer's determination) for the following reasons:

1. the proposed development does not accord with the six factors contributing to successful places of Policy 1 of the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans, in that it fails to meet the 'Distinctive' requirements by not respecting the landscape setting or character;
2. no justification has been provided which justifies the essential requirement for a green belt location, with the site not specifically identified in both the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans for such a use. The proposed development would not be compatible with the surrounding established countryside and landscape character, contrary to the provisions of Policy 14 of the adopted Local Development Plan and Policy 15 of the proposed Local Development Plan; and
3. the proposed development does not accord with the six factors contributing to successful places of Policy 1 of the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans, in that it fails to meet the "Successful Places" requirements by not protecting important views.

Following a roll call vote, 2 Members, Councillors Clocherty and McGuire voted in favour of the amendment and 3 Members, Councillors McCabe, McVey and Nelson voted in favour of the motion which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and
- (2) that the application for review be upheld and that planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:-
 1. that the development to which this permission relates must have commenced within 3 years from the date of this permission, to comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended);
 2. that prior to the commencement of any construction works on site, the applicant shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority a site plan, which confirms the provision of one car parking space for each two bedroom lodge and two car parking spaces for each three bedroom lodge. For the avoidance of doubt the parking spaces shall be a minimum of 3.0m by 6.0m and the approved parking shall then be available for use prior to the first occupation of each lodge, in the interests of pedestrian and traffic safety;
 3. that development shall not commence until details/samples of all external finishes on the buildings have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. For the avoidance of doubt this relates to the type, finish and colour of all external materials on each new building. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form, in the interests of visual amenity;
 4. that development shall not commence until detailed specification of the type and colour of all hard surfacing to be used on hardstanding areas have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form, in the interests of visual amenity;
 5. that development shall not commence until details/plans of the proposed finished floor levels of each of the buildings hereby approved, as well as any changes to ground levels within the site, have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The details to be submitted shall relate to a fixed datum point. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form, in the interests of visual amenity;

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6. that prior to the commencement of any development works on site, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of the Planning Authority, a survey for the presence of Japanese Knotweed. For the avoidance of doubt; this shall contain a methodology and treatment statement where any is found. Development shall not proceed until appropriate control measures are implemented. Any significant variation to the treatment methodology shall be submitted for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation, to ensure the remediation scheme meets regulatory requirements and all contamination and Japanese Knotweed concerns are managed appropriately;

7. that development shall not commence until details of bin stores/containers to be used to store waste materials and recyclable materials as well as specific details of the areas where these are to be located have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form before first occupation of the administration/office building or first use of lodges hereby permitted, to protect the amenity of the immediate area, prevent the creation of nuisance due to odours, insects, rodents or birds;

8. that the administration/office building and lodges hereby approved shall be designed to ensure that at least 25% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation and operation of low and zero carbon generating technologies. Development shall not commence until details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed low and zero carbon generating technologies to be installed in the buildings. Thereafter the approved low and zero carbon generating technologies shall be implemented in their approved form before the first occupation of the administration/office building or lodges, to comply with the requirements of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;

9. that prior to the commencement of development, confirmation of connection to Scottish Water's Network shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure Scottish Water's acceptance of the drainage regime for the application site and in the interests of the provision of a satisfactory drainage regime;

10. that the development hereby permitted shall not commence until an Environmental Investigation and Risk Assessment, including any necessary Remediation Scheme with timescale for implementation, of all pollutant linkages has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the Planning Authority. The investigations and assessment shall be site-specific and completed in accordance with current codes of practice. The submission shall also include a Verification Plan. Any subsequent modifications to the Remediation Scheme and Verification Plan must be approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation, to satisfactorily address potential contamination issues in the interests of human health and environmental safety;

11. that before the development hereby permitted is occupied the applicant shall submit a report for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority, confirming that the works have been completed in accordance with the agreed Remediation Scheme and supply information as agreed in the Verification Plan. This report shall demonstrate that no pollutant linkages remain or are likely to occur and include (but not limited to) a collation of verification/validation certificates, analysis information, remediation lifespan, maintenance/aftercare information and details of all materials imported onto the site as fill or landscaping material. The details of such materials shall include information of the material source, volume, intended use and chemical quality with plans delineating placement and thickness, to ensure contamination is not imported to the site and confirm successful completion of remediation measures in the interest of human health and environmental safety;

12. that for the avoidance of doubt, the presence of any previously unrecorded contamination or variation to anticipated ground conditions that becomes evident during site works shall be brought to the attention of the Planning Authority and a Remediation

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 4 DECEMBER 2024

Scheme shall not be implemented unless it has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure that all contamination issues are recorded and dealt with appropriately;

13. that prior to the commencement of use of the development hereby permitted, the applicant shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority, a site plan which demonstrates an access from Dunrod Road, which shall be a minimum of 5.5m wide for a distance of 10m from the edge of road, at a maximum gradient of 10%; the single-track road within the shall be a minimum of 3.5 wide with intervisible passing places no more than 200m apart; the combined width of single-track road plus passing bay shall be 5.5 metres over a length of 15m to allow the safe passage of bin vehicles; tapers 5m long shall be provided at each end; and turning heads at the end of each access near lodge plots 3 and 12 shall be to National Guidelines requirements. Thereafter the access and road arrangement finally agreed shall be constructed and retained for the lifetime of the development, in the interests of traffic and pedestrian safety;

14. that for the avoidance of doubt, a visibility splay at the site access onto Dunrod Road of 2.4m x 160.0m x 1.05m shall be provided and maintained for the lifetime of the development, in the interests of traffic and pedestrian safety;

15. that prior to the commencement of use of the development hereby permitted, the applicant shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority, a site plan which demonstrates pedestrian access between all lodges and the administration/office building. Thereafter the pedestrian access arrangements finally agreed shall be constructed and retained for the lifetime of the development, in the interests of traffic and pedestrian safety; and

16. that prior to the commencement of any development works on site, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of the Planning Authority, full details of how all surface water run off shall be retained within the site both during construction and on completion of the development. Thereafter the surface water run off shall be retained within the site in accordance with the detail finally approved, for the lifetime of the development, in the interests of visual amenity.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 5 DECEMBER 2024

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 5 December 2024 at 4pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Hellyer, Jackson, Law, McCabe, 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
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Angela Edmiston	Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Strategic Finance)
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Crowther, Hellyer, Law, McCabe and Reynolds attending remotely.

565 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

565

No apologies for absence were intimated.

Councillor Brooks declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 (Proposed transfer of pensions of employees by River Clyde Homes and the 'Fire and Rehire' processes being used – Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson).

Certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:
Agenda Item 13 (Proposed transfer of pensions of employees by River Clyde Homes and the 'Fire and Rehire' processes being used – Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson) – Provost McKenzie and Councillor Curley.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Provost welcomed Councillor Ian Hellyer to the meeting as newly elected Councillor for Ward 5 (Inverclyde West) following the recent by-election and congratulated Councillor Brooks on becoming Chair of the Scottish Region of The National Association of Councillors. The Provost also conveyed his condolences to Councillor Crowther on the recent loss of his partner.

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

566 Appointment Panel (Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness - 30 May 2024

566

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 5 DECEMBER 2024

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

567 Appointment Panel (Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness) - 20 June 2024 567

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

568 Inverclyde Council – 26 September 2024 568

Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.

569 Local Review Body – 2 October 2024 569

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

570 General Purposes Board - 9 October 2024 570

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

571 Audit Committee – 22 October 2024 571

Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.

572 Inverclyde Council – 24 October 2024 572

Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.

573 Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel - 29 October 2024 573

Approved on the motion of Councillor Brennan.

574 Environment & Regeneration Committee - 31 October 2024 574

Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.

575 Education & Communities Committee - 5 November 2024 575

Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.

576 Planning Board – 6 November 2024 576

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

577 Local Review Body – 6 November 2024 577

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

578 General Purposes Board – 13 November 2024 578

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 5 DECEMBER 2024

579	Policy & Resources Committee – 19 November 2024	579
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McGuire.	
580	Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel - 21 November 2024	580
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.	
581	General Purposes Board - 28 November 2024	581
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
582	Finance Strategy 2024/34 – 6 Monthly Update	582
	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 £14.9million 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 agreed to end one of the £100,000 Insurance Fund premium holidays from 1 April 2025 due to the reduced Insurance Fund balance; and	
	(4) that the following one-off actions be agreed in relation to Funding Models:	
	(a) transfer £300,000 to the City Deal Funding Model from the unallocated reserves;	
	(b) transfer £300,000 to the Internal Resources Interest model from the unallocated reserves; and	
	(c) reduce the previously approved £1million transfer in 2024/25 between the Internal Resources Interest and Loans Charges Funding Model by £200,000.	
583	Internal Audit Shared Service	583
	There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking agreement to expand the number of shared posts within the existing Internal Audit shared service	
	Decided:	
	(1) that (a) it be agreed to expand the number of shared Internal Audit posts, namely (i) vacant post of Senior Fraud Investigation Officer within Inverclyde and (ii) vacant post of qualified Internal Auditor within West Dunbartonshire Council, and (b) it be noted that this is subject to the proposal being agreed by West Dunbartonshire Council later this month;	
	(2) that it be noted that discussions are ongoing at officer level with a third Council regarding a potential larger Internal Audit shared service; and	
	(3) that it be agreed that future reports concerning the Internal Audit Shared Service be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee.	
584	2023/24 Annual Accounts	584
	There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer presenting the finalised 2023/24 Annual Accounts for noting, this following consideration of the Annual Accounts,	

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 5 DECEMBER 2024

Draft Annual Audit Report and Best Value Thematic Report at the Inverclyde Council meeting on 24 October 2024.

Decided:

- (1) that the final 2023/24 Annual Accounts be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that following this meeting the Annual Accounts will be signed by the Council Leader, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer.

585 Request for a Special Meeting of Inverclyde Council

585

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking agreement for a Special Meeting of the Council to be held on 23 January 2025 at 4pm to consider a number of matters relating to the 2025/26 Budget.

Decided: that it be agreed that a Special Meeting of the Council will be held on 23 January 2025 at 4pm to receive an update on the 2025/26 grant settlement and take a number of decisions relating to the 2025/26 Budget.

Prior to consideration of the following item the Provost thanked Councillor McCabe for his dedication and service to Inverclyde Council as Leader of the Council for 17 years and paid tribute to his integrity and commitment.

586 Appointment of Council Leader and Political Balance

586

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) requesting that the Council appoint a new Leader following the resignation of Councillor McCabe as Leader of the Council, (2) advising of the necessary amendments to ensure political balance on Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies, where appropriate, following (i) the election of Councillor Ian Hellyer as an Elected member of the Council representing Ward 5 (Inverclyde West) following a by-election on 7 November 2024, (ii) the resignation of Councillor McCabe as Leader of the Council, and (iii) the administrative suspension of Councillor McCabe from the Labour Party and that Councillor McCabe now sits on the Council as an independent member, and (3) advising of changes to such memberships which are not related to those events and have been requested by Members.

The Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services provided a verbal update to the report and advised that further to the proposal that Councillor Jackson replace Councillor Moran as a member of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board, that Councillor Hellyer be named as his proxy and that Councillor Clocherty be named as Councillor Brennan's proxy, noting that Councillor Brennan is a current member of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board.

Decided:

- (1) that Councillor Robert Moran be appointed as Leader of the Council;
- (2) that following the resignation of Councillor Curley from the Board of River Clyde Homes and there being no nominations received to be the second Councillor member of the Board, Members be given a two-week reflection period to consider nominations, after which, if there remain no nominations, the matter will be discussed with River Clyde Homes;
- (3) that following the resignation of Councillor Quinn from the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, Provost McKenzie be appointed as replacement;
- (4) that the new political balance applying to Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies, as detailed in the appendices to the report, be noted;
- (5) that the membership of Inverclyde Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Boards, together with Convenors and Vice-Convenors, be agreed as follows:

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 5 DECEMBER 2024

Policy & Resources Committee

(a) Councillor Brennan to replace Councillor Nelson, (b) Councillor Brooks to replace Councillor Wilson, (c) Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as an independent Member, (d) Councillor McGuire to replace Councillor McCabe as Convener and (e) Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McGuire as Vice-Convener.

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| 1. Councillor Brennan | 7. Councillor Robertson |
| 2. Councillor Moran | 8. Councillor Brooks |
| 3. Councillor McCormick | 9. Councillor Law |
| 4. Councillor McGuire | 10. Councillor McCabe |
| 5. Councillor Armstrong | 11. Councillor McVey |
| 6. Councillor Curley | |

Convener: Councillor McGuire

Vice-Convener: Councillor Moran

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Councillor Nelson to fill vacancy.

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

Convener: Councillor McCormick

Vice-Conveners: Councillor Cassidy (Environment)

Councillor Clocherty (Regeneration)

Education & Communities Committee

Councillor Hellyer to replace Councillor Moran.

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

Convener: Councillor Clocherty

Vice-Conveners: Councillor Brennan (Education)

Councillor McGuire (Communities)

Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

(a) Councillor Hellyer and Councillor Law to fill vacancies, and (b) Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as an independent member.

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| 1. Councillor Brennan | 7. Councillor Robertson |
| 2. Councillor Cassidy | 8. Councillor Brooks |
| 3. Councillor Hellyer | 9. Councillor Law |
| 4. Councillor Jackson | 10. Councillor McCabe |
| 5. Councillor Armstrong | 11. Provost McKenzie |
| 6. Councillor Daisley | |

Convener: Councillor Brennan

Vice-Convener: Councillor Jackson

Audit Committee

Councillor Hellyer to replace Councillor McCabe.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 5 DECEMBER 2024

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| 1. Councillor Clocherty | 7. Councillor Robertson |
| 2. Councillor Hellyer | 8. Councillor Nelson |
| 3. Councillor McCormick | 9. Councillor Wilson |
| 4. Councillor McGuire | 10. Councillor Law |
| 5. Councillor Crowther | 11. Councillor McVey |
| 6. Councillor Curley | |
- Convener: Councillor Wilson
 Vice-Convener: Councillor Curley

General Purposes Board

(a) Councillor Hellyer to replace Councillor Moran, (b) Councillor McCabe to fill the vacancy as an independent member, (c) Councillor Nelson to replace Councillor Wilson, and (d) Councillor Jackson to replace Councillor Moran as Convener.

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Councillor Brennan | 7. Councillor Reynolds |
| 2. Councillor Cassidy | 8. Councillor Nelson |
| 3. Councillor Hellyer | 9. Councillor McCabe |
| 4. Councillor Jackson | 10. Provost McKenzie |
| 5. Councillor Armstrong | 11. Councillor Quinn |
| 6. Councillor Curley | |
- Chair: Councillor Jackson
 Vice Chair: Councillor Curley

Planning Board

No change to membership but Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as an independent member.

Human Resources Appeals Board

No change to membership.

Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee

(a) Councillor Moran to replace Councillor Law, (b) Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as an independent member, (c) Councillor Brooks to replace Councillor Wilson, (d) Councillor McGuire to replace Councillor McCabe as Convener, and (e) Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McGuire as Vice-Convener.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Councillor Moran | 4. Councillor Brooks |
| 2. Councillor McGuire | 5. Councillor McCabe |
| 3. Councillor Robertson | 6. Councillor McVey |
- Convener: Councillor McCabe
 Vice-Convener: Councillor McGuire

Grants Sub-Committee

No change to membership.

Local Review Body

No change to membership but Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as an independent member.

Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel

(a) Councillor Hellyer to replace Councillor Moran, and (b) Councillor Cassidy to replace Councillor McGuire

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Councillor Brennan | 7. Councillor Reynolds |
| 2. Councillor Cassidy | 8. Councillor Wilson |

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- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 3. Councillor Clocherty | 9. Councillor Law |
| 4. Councillor Hellyer | 10. Provost McKenzie |
| 5. Councillor Crowther | 11. Councillor Quinn |
| 6. Councillor Daisley | |
| Chair: Councillor Wilson | |
| Vice-Chair: Provost McKenzie | |

Petitions Committee

Councillor Hellyer to replace Councillor McCabe.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Councillor Cassidy | 4. Councillor Daisley |
| 2. Councillor Hellyer | 5. Councillor Brooks |
| 3. Councillor Curley | 6. Provost McKenzie |
| Convener: Councillor Curley | |
| Vice-Convener: Provost McKenzie | |

(6) that appointments be made to Outside Bodies as follows:

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities – Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McCabe

Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal Cabinet (Joint Committee) – Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McCabe

Inchgreen Marine Park Ltd – Councillor Clocherty to replace Councillor McCabe

Inverclyde Alliance Board – Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McCabe

Inverclyde Integration Joint Board – Councillor Jackson to replace Councillor Moran, Councillor Hellyer to be proxy for Councillor Jackson, and Councillor Clocherty to be proxy for Councillor Brennan, who is an existing member

Scotland Excel Joint Committee – Councillor Cassidy to replace Councillor McCabe as substitute member

Scottish Joint Council for Local Government Employees – Councillor Clocherty to replace Councillor McCabe

Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers – Councillor Clocherty to replace Councillor McCabe.

587 Inverclyde Council Byelaws for the Regulation of the Cleaning of Common Property 587

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services providing an update on the outcome of the statutory consultation in connection with the proposed resolution to revoke the Inverclyde Byelaws for the Regulation of the Cleaning of Common Property and requesting that the Council now agrees to pass the resolution to revoke the Byelaws.

Decided:

- (1) that the outcome of the statutory consultation in connection with the proposed resolution to revoke the Byelaws be noted; and
- (2) that Inverclyde Council resolves to revoke the Inverclyde Council Byelaws for the Regulation of the Cleaning of Common Property.

588 Treasury Management – Mid-Year Report 2024/25 – Remit from the Policy & Resources Committee 588

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting consideration of a remit from the Policy & Resources Committee of 19 November 2024 relative to the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2024/25.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 5 DECEMBER 2024

Decided: that the Mid-Year Report for 2024/25, as required under the terms of the Treasury Management Practice 6 (TMP6) on 'Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements', be approved.

589 Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 – Notice of Motion by Councillor Brooks

589

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on a Notice of Motion by Councillor Brooks, countersigned by Councillor Wilson, in the following terms:

"Inverclyde Council is the proud holder of the gold-level award for the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme - commonly referred to as the Armed Forces Covenant – and the proud home of 2,289 veterans.

In this year's King's Speech, on the 17th of July 2024, the Prime Minister set out measures to repeal and replace the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023. This Act gave members of the British Armed Forces who served in Northern Ireland the same protection from prosecution as that given to those convicted of acts of terror and those who, until the passing of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, had evaded justice.

In interviews given by the Prime Minister prior to this year's General Election, he made it clear that he does not believe British service personnel should have immunity from prosecution, but convicted paramilitaries and those evading justice should continue to enjoy this protection as the cost of a lasting peace.

The repeal of the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 is an act of betrayal to British Armed Forces veterans who saw active service during Operation Banner. It is an affront to the British military community, serving and veterans.

As a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant, this Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister asking him to reconsider his commitment to repealing 2023 Act or, if he is so determined, to replace it with an Act that gives British Armed Forces veterans at least the same degree of protection from prosecution related to The Troubles as those enjoyed by those already pardoned as part of the Peace Process."

Following discussion, as an amendment Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Curley, moved that this Council agrees not to take this position on this issue and requests that Members make their views known to the Prime Minister on an individual basis should they decide to do so.

Following a roll call vote, 3 Members, Councillors Brooks, Nelson and Wilson, voted for the motion, and 17 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Hellyer, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Reynolds and Robertson voted for the amendment which was declared carried. Councillors Law and Quinn abstained from voting.

Decided: that this Council agrees not to take the position as set out in Councillor Brook's motion on this issue and requests that Members make their views known to the Prime Minister on an individual basis should they decide to do so.

590 Proposed transfer of pensions of employees by River Clyde Homes and the 'Fire and Rehire' processes being used – Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson

590

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on a Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson, countersigned by Councillor Cassidy, in the following terms:

"It is proposed that: This Council notes that:

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 5 DECEMBER 2024

- River Clyde Homes (RCH) workers who remain on the final salary Strathclyde Pension Fund following the stock transfer in 2007, have been told that moves are underway to move them on to less favourable Scottish Housing Association Pension Scheme (SHAPS);
- these workers, through their trade union, have rejected RCH's revised offer;
- RCH have taken the decision to put workers on 60 days' notice (which will take effect on Tuesday the 14th January 2025) that if they do not accept the move, their employment may be terminated, and they will be rehired on revised terms and conditions. This is the practice known as fire and rehire; and
- RCH has cited challenges around rent rises and other factors (which have not been explained) as the reason RCH management can no longer sustain their employer contributions.

This Council agrees to:

- strongly condemn any partner or anchor organisation that would use fire and rehire to undermine pay and conditions;
- support the affected staff in their struggle to maintain their employment terms & conditions together with their current Pension Scheme; and
- instructs the Chief Executive Officer to write to RCH to (i) ask that they halt the 60-day notice period immediately and the threat to end the employment of workers and (ii) call on RCH to get back around the table with trade union officers to reach a settlement that will not adversely affect the financial well-being of its workers.”

Councillor Brooks declared an interest in this item as a Board Member of River Clyde Homes and left the meeting for the consideration of this item.

Provost McKenzie declared a connection as a close personal acquaintance is employed by River Clyde Homes but is not in the pension fund, and Councillor Curley declared a connection as a former Board Member of River Clyde Homes. Both Councillors formed the view that the nature of their connection and of the item of 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 Jackson as set out above be agreed;
- (2) that it be agreed that the Chief Executive write to River Clyde Homes to ask (a) that they halt the 60-day notice period immediately and the threat to end the employment of workers, and (b) return to the table with Trade Union officers to reach a settlement that will not adversely affect the financial well-being of its workers.

Councillor Brooks returned to the meeting at this juncture.

591 Inverclyde Group for Gaza – Notice of Motion by Councillor Armstrong

591

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on a Notice of Motion by Councillor Armstrong, countersigned by Councillor Reynolds, in the following terms:

“It is proposed that this Council notes the efforts of the local Group for Gaza in raising funds to alleviate the suffering endured by the people of Gaza. In all but the most inclement weather the Inverclyde Group for Gaza, with support from elected members of different parties and none, has met weekly since October 2023 for a Saturday vigil and fundraiser. To date the Group for Gaza has sent £8,000 to Medical Aid for Palestine including the proceeds from two Gigs for Gaza held in Inverclyde. This Council commends the efforts and dedication of the Group for Gaza.”

Decided: that the notice of motion by Councillor Armstrong as set out above be agreed.

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on a Notice of Motion by Councillor Cassidy, countersigned by Councillor Brennan, in the following terms:

“This Council Notes:

- That the Scottish Government owned rail operator ScotRail, announced on 31st October 2024 plans to reduce ticket office hours at 101 (70%) of its 143 staffed stations. This means weekly ticket office hours across the ScotRail network would reduce by around 2800 hours a week.
- ScotRail has commenced a 12-week internal staff consultation on the proposals which ends in February 2025.
- Wemyss Bay Station, the 2023 winner of Best UK Station is one of the stations affected by this announcement which will see its hours cut by 61% to 45 hours a week with a loss of 70 hours per week.
- Greenock Central station will see its current hours cut by 62% to 32 hours a week with a loss of 55 hours per week; Gourock station will see its current hours cut by 43% to 70 hours a week with a loss of 53 hours per week; Port Glasgow station will see its current hours cut by 41% to 72 hours with a loss of 50 hours per week and Greenock West station will see its current hours cut by 38% to 77 hours with a loss of 47 hours per week.
- According to Transport for All disabled people are less likely to travel by rail than non-disabled people and that around two-thirds of ScotRail stations are un-staffed.
- There is an ongoing campaign by the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) to Save ScotRail Ticket Offices.
- These proposals would close ticket offices for significant portions of the day, amounting to a reduction of one-third of overall hours at affected stations, totalling a loss of around 2,900 hours per week.
- That these controversial proposals were first introduced in early 2022 by former operator Abellio following a 21-day public consultation run by passenger watchdog Transport Focus on proposals for cuts to ticket office hours.
- These proposals in 2022 faced overwhelming public opposition with 98% of respondents objecting to the plans to reduce ticket office hours.
- That at the time, the process that the passenger watchdog had to follow when reviewing the consultation responses, meant that it could only object to proposals under a ‘narrow’ criteria relating solely to ticket sales.
- That since then ScotRail is now owned by the Scottish Government, and guidelines for ticket office closures have changed. Under the new process, Transport Focus, the passenger watchdog, must assess any closure proposals according to accessibility, safety and service quality criteria.
- That during the 2022 Public Consultation, a poll by Disability Equality Scotland of its members found that 95% objected to the proposals.
- That the RMT has highlighted that ScotRail’s plans were initially consulted on under outdated procedures, rendering them illegitimate by today’s standards.
- The Scottish Government 2022 report into women's and girls' views and experiences of personal safety when using public transport found that –women and girls feel safer when there are staffed ticket offices open during their journeys.
- Ticket office staffing is the only regulated staffing at stations, meaning cuts could lead to broader unregulated staffing reductions without future public consultation.

This Council believes:

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 5 DECEMBER 2024

- Staffed ticket offices are vital for making rail accessible for all, especially disabled and older people.
- These cuts will seriously impact passenger safety, accessibility and security, thus will worsen passenger service and have a detrimental impact on passenger experience of the ScotRail network.
- These cuts ignore the needs of the traveling public and put essential services at risk and will erode the quality of services in Inverclyde and around Scotland.
- That the Scottish Government, as ScotRail's owner and the body who authorised ScotRail to proceed with these cuts, must urgently intervene and instruct it to scrap the plans to cut ticket offices hours and maintain the services that passengers deserve.
- That ScotRail reliance on outdated processes renders these proposals illegitimate and warrants their immediate withdrawal.
- That protecting staffed ticket offices is crucial to supporting local communities, tourism and Inverclyde's economy.

This Council agrees to:

- Voice support for RMT campaign to protect the vital services offered by staffed ticket offices and commit to advocating for the vital role they play in Inverclyde alongside Trades Unions, campaign groups and disabled orgs.
- Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Scottish Government calling on them to intervene and reverse this decision and to seek a commitment to fully staffed ticket offices to ensure safe, secure, and accessible railways for all.
- Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to ScotRail Managing Director to raise the Council's concerns and call on ScotRail to reverse this decision and publish the relevant Equality Impact Assessment. ScotRail will also be requested to provide a detailed impact assessment on the accessibility, safety, and economic consequences of these changes, with specific focus on Inverclyde.
- Voice its opposition to ticket office closures and to advocate for the vital role that Inverclyde ticket offices play in supporting the community, tourism and Inverclyde's economy."

Decided: this Motion was withdrawn with the agreement of Councillor Cassidy and Councillor Brennan, in order to give Members time to consider the terms of the Motion, and will be considered at the Special meeting of the Inverclyde Council on 23 January 2024 as arranged earlier in the meeting.

593 Trust Funds Annual Accounts 2023-24

593

There was submitted a report by the Honorary Treasurer requesting the Council as sole trustee to adopt the examined Annual Accounts of the Birkmyre Trust and the Watt Institution Trust Fund for 2023-24.

Decided: that the Council as sole trustee -

- (1) approve the Annual Accounts of the Birkmyre Trust and the Watt Institution Trust Fund for the year ended 31 March 2024 as detailed in the appendices to the report; and
- (2) remit officers to provide a report to a future meeting on Birkmyre Park considering the best use of the usable reserves.

Private Appendices to Minutes

594 Appointment Panel (Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness 30 May 2024

594

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

595 Appointment Panel (Head of Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness) - 20 June 2024 595

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

596 General Purposes Board – 9 October 2024 596

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

597 Audit Committee – 22 October 2024 597

Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson

598 Environment & Regeneration Committee – 31 October 2024 598

Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.

599 Education & Communities Committee – 5 November 2024 599

Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.

600 General Purposes Board – 13 November 2024 600

Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.

601 Policy & Resources Committee – 19 November 2024 601

Approved on the motion of Councillor McGuire.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7 JANUARY 2025

Audit Committee

Tuesday 7 January 2025 at 4pm

Present: Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Hellyer, Law, McCormick, McGuire, McVey and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor Curley presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Lynsey Brown	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Vicky Pollock	Legal Services Manager
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP) (for Chief Officer HSCP)
Andi Priestman	Chief Internal Auditor
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Gerard Smith	Capital Assets Principal Accountant
Deborah Clark	Corporate Risk Adviser
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader

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

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener conveyed his condolences to Councillor Wilson on his recent bereavement.

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

1 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 1

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

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2 Internal Audit Progress Report – 1 September to 31 October 2024 2

There was submitted a report by the Chief Internal Auditor, appending the monitoring report in respect of Internal Audit activity for the period 1 September to 31 October 2024.

Decided:

(1) that the progress made by Internal Audit in the period from 1 September to 31 October 2024 be noted: and

(2) that it be remitted to officers to expand the detail provided on whistleblowing activity within the Council as contained in the annual report.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7 JANUARY 2025

- 3 External Audit Action Plans – Current Actions 3**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Internal Auditor on the status of current External Audit actions at 31 October 2024.
Decided: that the progress made in the implementation of External Audit actions be noted.
- 4 Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy 4**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Internal Auditor presenting the recently updated Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy to the Committee for consideration and approval.
Decided: that the updated Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy be approved.
- 5 Best Value Thematic Review – Workforce Innovation 5**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer presenting the Best Value Thematic Review for consideration, which this year covered “Workforce Innovation – How councils are responding to workforce challenges”.
Decided: that having considered the report it be remitted to officers to arrange a Workforce Transformation Development Workshop for all Elected Members.
- 6 Corporate Risk Register 6**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (a) presenting the latest Corporate Risk Register to Committee for consideration and (b) following review of the Register recommending that it be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration.
Decided:
 (1) that the Committee note the position on the most significant corporate risks facing the Council, and the key actions being taken in response to them, all as detailed in the Corporate Risk Register appended to the report;
 (2) that it be noted that the Corporate Risk Register will be reported to the February 2025 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee; and
 (3) that it be remitted to officers to submit a report to a future meeting of the Audit Committee detailing the outcome of the Digital Maturity Exercise referred to in the Risk Register appended to the report.
- It was agreed in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 4, 6 & 14 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**
- 7 Appendix relative to Item 2 providing information on special investigations 7**
- There was submitted an appendix to the Internal Audit progress report providing information on a special investigation.
Decided: that the contents of the appendix be noted.

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 14 JANUARY 2025

Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 14 January 2025 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Curley (for Daisley), Hellyer, Jackson, Law, McCabe and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor Brennan presided.

In attendance:

Kate Rocks	Chief Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP)
Vicky Pollock	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Jonathan Hinds	Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services (Inverclyde HSCP)
Alan Best	Interim Head of Health & Community Care (Inverclyde HSCP)
Maxine Ward	Head of Addiction and Homelessness Services (Inverclyde HSCP)
Arlene Mailey	Service Manager, Quality & Development Service (Inverclyde HSCP)
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Peter MacDonald	Solicitor, Legal Services
Alison Ramsey	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

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

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

8 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

8

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Daisley with Councillor Curley substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:

Agenda item 4 (Homelessness – New Model of Care and Support) – Councillor Brooks and Councillor Jackson

9 Revenue & Capital Budget Report – 2024/25 Revenue Outturn Position as at 31 October 2024

9

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership and the Head of Finance, Planning & Resources, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, on the projected outturn on revenue and capital for 2024/25 as at 31 October 2024.

Decided:

(1) that the projected current year revenue outturn of £0.575million overspend at 31 October 2024 be noted;

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 14 JANUARY 2025

- (1) that the current projected capital position be noted; and
- (2) that the current reserves position be noted.

10 Children and Families Placements 10

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an overview of placements for children and young people who require to be looked after away from home and which included (1) an analysis of (a) the use of placements commissioned from external providers, and (b) national and local challenges, and (2) an update on governance and scrutiny arrangements around care planning.

Decided: that the content of the report be noted, including the (a) demand analysis for placements for children and young people who are looked after away from home, (b) national challenges, and (c) local activity to improve capacity as part of a wider service redesign.

11 Homelessness – New Model of Care and Support 11

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (1) advising of the decision of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board at its meeting on 18 November 2024 to approve a proposal for the redesign of local homelessness services, (2) providing an overview of the options considered at that meeting, (c) providing detail on the preferred option, and (d) providing context around the existing model of Homelessness services and the local case for change.

Councillor Brooks declared a connection in this item as a Board member of River Clyde Homes and Councillor Jackson declared a connection as he works occasionally at the Inverclyde Centre through his business. Both Councillors also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of 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 content of the report be noted;
- (2) that the decision of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board to undertake a review of the Homelessness Service be noted;
- (3) that the decision of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board to de-commission the Homelessness service based at the Inverclyde Centre be noted; and
- (4) that the thanks and appreciation of the Panel be extended to all staff connected with the provision of the Homelessness Service.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

12 Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations 12

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on matters relating to the Health & Social Care Partnership governance processes for Externally Commissioned Social Care Services.

Decided:

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 14 JANUARY 2025

- (1) that the governance report for the period 28 September 2024 to 29 November 2024 be noted; and
- (2) that Members acknowledge that officers regard the control mechanisms in place through the governance meetings and managing poorly performing services guidance within the Contract Management Framework is sufficiently robust to ensure ongoing quality and safety and the fostering of a commissioning culture of continuous improvement.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 16 JANUARY 2025

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 16 January 2025 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, McCormick, Quinn and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor Cassidy presided.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Neale McIlvanney	Head of Service - Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Julie Ann Wilson	Principal Accountant
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance and Communications Manager

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillor McCormick attending remotely.

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

13 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 13

No apologies for absence were intimated.

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

Agenda Item 4 (Energy & Climate Change – Strategic Heat Network Study / Scottish Climate intelligence Service / Public Bodies Climate Change Report) – Councillor Curley

14 2024/25 Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget 14

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director Environment & Regeneration advising the Committee of (1) the Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget 2024/25, and (2) details of actions being taken to reduce the projected overspend.

Decided: that the following be noted, (a) the Committee's Revenue Budget projected overspend in 2024/25 of £197,000, and (b) the actions being taken by the Director to reduce the projected overspend in 2024/25 and recurring budget pressures from 2025/26

15 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme 2024/28 – Progress 15

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration and the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on the status of the projects within the 2024/28 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 16 JANUARY 2025

The Head of Physical Assets advised the Committee of an error in paragraph 3.29 of the report, and accordingly the reference to the “Marine Engineer survey and report as outlined in 3.17 above” should be disregarded.

During the course of discussion on this item, reference was made to dangerous building notices at the Clune Park Estate. As this would potentially involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, it was agreed to resume consideration of the item in private session, which occurred after agenda item 8 (Property Asset Management – Public Report; Sale of former St Michael’s schoolhouse, Bridgend Avenue, Port Glasgow; Acquisition of land at Gourrock Station car park, Gourrock).

Decided:

- (1) that the current position and the progress on the specific projects of the 2024/28 Capital Programme and externally funded projects as outlined in the report and appendices be noted;
- (2) that the on-going work in respect of the further identification of priority projects relating to core asset condition and allocation of funds from Core Property budget be noted; and
- (3) that (a) the on-going work in respect of the further identification of projects relating to Net Zero and allocation of funds from the Net Zero Capital budget be noted, and (b) the allocation of £200,000 to the King George VI Community Hub project as outlined in section 3.26 to the report, be approved;

16 Energy & Climate Change – Strategic Heat Network Study / Scottish Climate Intelligence Service / Public Bodies Climate Change Report 16

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets providing an update on Energy and Climate Change related activity including the annual greenhouse gas emissions data return for Inverclyde submitted to the Scottish Government.

Councillor Curley declared a connection as an employee of AECOM. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and he was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the Strategic Heat Network Study award, procurement of consultants and the Council involvement across services and with external stakeholders over the period of the study until Summer 2025 be noted;
- (2) that the establishment of the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service and the Council’s participation in this be noted; and
- (3) that (a) the increase in the Council’s reported greenhouse gas emissions in 2023/24, as a result of including the emissions from Inverclyde Leisure managed assets related to electricity and gas use, be noted, and (b) the general trend of a steady reduction in the Council’s emissions and the scenarios included in appendix 1 to the report which show the effect of removing Inverclyde Leisure electricity and gas emissions from 2023/24, and also re-baselining to incorporate those emissions in each year back to the baseline date, be noted.

17 Winter Maintenance Service 17

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets providing information on the current working arrangements for the planning, operation and delivery of the annual Winter Maintenance Service.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 16 JANUARY 2025

The Head of Physical Assets advised the Committee of a typographical error in paragraph 3.16 of the report, and accordingly the reference to “a further allocation of £300K from *”, should read “a further allocation of 300K from reserve”.

Decided:

- (1) that the information presented within the report which highlights the budget allocations, resources and statutory responsibilities related to the Winter Maintenance Service be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the existing budget pressures will need to be addressed as part of the 2026/27 budget setting process.

18 Inverclyde Strategic Transport Model

18

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets informing the Committee of a study undertaken to build a strategic traffic model for Inverclyde.

Decided:

- (1) that the development of the new Inverclyde Transport Model be noted; and
- (2) that the forecast pressure areas highlighted, based on the 5-year and 10-year traffic growth models for 2027 and 2032, be noted.

19 Management Rules for Cemeteries and Crematoriums in Inverclyde

19

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) seeking approval of the draft Cemeteries and Crematoriums Management Rules 2025 prior to statutory public consultation, (2) seeking authority to proceed with the statutory public consultation, (3) advising that there will be a further report to the Committee seeking formal approval of the rules following the consultation, and (4) advising that thereafter there will be a report to Inverclyde Council seeking authority to make the management rules.

Decided:

- (1) that the draft Cemeteries and Crematoriums Management Rules, as detailed in appendix 2 to the report, be approved for public consultation;
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to take all action which is required in terms of implementing the statutory consultation procedure in terms of the proposed management rules;
- (3) that the intention of the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to report back to the Committee on the outcome of the public consultation exercise, to allow the Committee to consider any objections received and any consequential amendments considered appropriate, be noted; and
- (4) that it be noted that the outcome of the public consultation exercise and recommendations of this Committee following that exercise will, subject to the decision of the Committee, be reported to the Inverclyde Council and that authority will subsequently be sought from the Inverclyde Council to make the Management Rules.

20 Property Asset Management – Public Report; Sale of former St Michael’s schoolhouse, Bridgend Avenue, Port Glasgow; Acquisition of land at Gourock Station car park, Gourock

20

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration requesting authority to (1) place the former St Michael’s school house, Bridgend Avenue, Port Glasgow, as shown on the plan in appendix 1 to the report, on the market for sale, and (2) to acquire a small area of land within the Gourock Station car park from Network Rail.

Decided:

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- (1) that delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to place the recently vacated house at Bridgend Avenue, Port Glasgow on the market with Neil Clerk & Murray following which a report on any offers received will be brought back to the Committee for a final decision; and
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to acquire the land shown hatched on the plan at appendix 2 to the report from Network Rail for zero consideration in order to regularise the title discrepancy.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 JANUARY 2025

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks (for Wilson), Clocherty, Hellyer, McGuire, McVey, Quinn, Reynolds and Robertson, and Rev D Burt, Church Representative, Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative, and Ms F MacDonald, Parent Representative.

Chair: Councillor Clocherty presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources
Michael Roach	Head of Education
Anne Sinclair	Managing Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Hugh Scott	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Iain Cameron	Principal Accountant (Education & Communities)
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Mark Coyle	Project lead – Scottish Attainment Challenge, Education Services
Yvonne Gallacher	Quality Improvement Manager – Early Years, Education Services
Adam Stephenson	Education Officer
Lindsay Kelly	Head Teacher, St Francis' Primary School and Nursery Class
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Hellyer, McGuire and Reynolds, Ms McEwan and Ms MacDonald attending remotely.

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

21 **Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

21

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson, with Councillor Brooks substituting, Councillor Nelson and Rev. Donaldson and Mr Docherty, Church Representatives.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:

Agenda Item 4 (Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives) – Councillors Brooks and Clocherty

Agenda Item 7 (Beacon Arts Centre – Update on 24/25 Performance Outcomes) –

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Councillors Brennan and Robertson

Agenda Item 8 (Warm Hand of Friendship Grants 2024/25) – Councillor McGuire

Agenda Item 15 (Future of Additional Support Needs Specialist Provision) – Councillors Robertson and Reynolds

Agenda Item 18 (Update to School Transport Policy) – Councillor Armstrong

22 2024/25 Communities Revenue Budget Update 22

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the projected position of the 2024/25 Communities Revenue Budget.

Decided: that it be noted that the Committee's Revenue Budget is currently projected to overspend in 2024/25 by £4,000 (0.07%).

23 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items 23

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing performance information for the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Communities Capital Programme and Asset related items.

The Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport provided a verbal update on the current status of the Coppermine (Scouts) within the Asset Transfer Working Group, advising that the property was awaiting valuation.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2024/28 Capital Programme be noted; and
- (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (b) King George VI Community Hub, (c) Boglestone Community Centre – Childcare Early Adopter Project, (d) Parklea Branching Out, (e) Bank Street Community Hall, and (f) the Asset Transfer Working Group updates on (i) Wellington Allotments, (ii) KGV Bowling Club, (iii) Larkfield waste ground/Larkfield Guerilla Gardens (Banff Road/Fife Drive), (iv) Guides at Kilmacolm, (v) Broomhill Way shop unit/Broomhill Beats, and (vi) the verbal update on the Coppermine (Scouts).

24 Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 24

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Communities aspects of the service.

Councillors Brooks and Clocherty declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection and of the item of 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 updates on the following be noted (a) Inverclyde's anti-social behaviour strategy review, (b) 16 Days of Action (gender based violence campaign), (c) Inverclyde Fire Skills Course, (d) Inverclyde Leisure Memorandum and Articles of Association, (e) Inverclyde Music Service, (f) Book Week Scotland, (g) Scottish Book Trust – Bookbug Gifting, (h) Libraries as Community Spaces, (i) Galoshans Festival 10th Anniversary, and (j) the Watt Institution; and
- (2) that the revision to Inverclyde Leisure's Articles of Association, as detailed at

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paragraph 3.4 of the report, be agreed, it being noted that the Inverclyde Leisure employee member of the IL Board shall be a member for a period of 24 months.

25 Corporate Workstream: Review of Community Learning and Development Services 25

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of recommendations arising from the review of Community Learning and Development (CLD) Services which was undertaken as part of the Council's Corporate Workstreams exercise, the aim of which is to realign services to meet the requirements of previous savings and the delivery of future savings targets.

Decided:

- (1) that the review of CLD be noted;
- (2) that the realignment of CLD to 'Inclusive Communities' be agreed; and
- (3) that the services approach to the achievement of the previously agreed savings target of £180,000 as part of the Council's Corporate Workstreams, as detailed in the document forming appendix 1 to the report, be agreed.

26 Watt Institution Collections Development Policy 26

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the Watt Institution's updated Collections Development Policy for approval.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted;
- (2) that the Collections Development Policy, as detailed at appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

27 Beacon Arts Centre – Update on 24/25 Performance Outcomes 27

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing the annual performance outcomes for 2024/25 between Inverclyde Council and the Greenock Arts Guild Ltd, who are the Board for the Beacon Arts Centre.

Councillors Brennan and Robertson declared connections as members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the performance outcomes and annual report for the Beacon Arts Centre, as detailed at appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

28 Warm Hand of Friendship Grants 2024/25 28

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the successful applications for funding through the Warm Hand of Friendship initiative for 2024/25.

Councillor McGuire declared a connection as a member of an organisation which received a grant, although she took no part in the application process. 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 was declaring for transparency.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 JANUARY 2025

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in the distribution of funding to the various organisations, as detailed at appendix 1 to the report, through the Warm Hand of Friendship funding initiative be noted; and
- (2) that the thanks and appreciation of the Committee be extended to all volunteers who assist with the organisations named in the report.

The Communities business concluded at 2.50pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Ms McEwan and Ms MacDonald joining the meeting remotely.

29 Education Scotland Inspection Report – St Francis’ Primary School and Nursery Class 29

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the outcome of the recent Education Scotland short inspection of St Francis’ Primary School and Nursery Class. Ms Kelly, the Head Teacher, was present and addressed the Committee in relation to the inspection report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Education Scotland report on St Francis’ Primary School and Nursery Class be noted; and
- (2) that the thanks and appreciation of the Committee be extended to all staff involved in the inspection process at St Francis’ Primary School and Nursery Class.

30 2024/25 Education Revenue Budget Update 30

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the projected position of the 2024/25 Education Revenue Budget including details of actions being taken to reduce the projected overspend.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee notes that the Education Revenue Budget is currently projected to overspend in 2024/25 by £35,000;
- (2) that it be noted that proposals to address the underlying budget pressure within Partner Providers are contained in the report later in the agenda ‘Early Years – Partner Provider Overspend’;
- (3) that the virement of £50,000, as detailed in paragraph 3.5 and appendix 5 to the report, be approved; and
- (4) that it be noted that the Council has received additional one-off funding of £74,000 from the Scottish Government to fund the write-off of historic school meal income debt, and that this is reflected in the projected outturn figures.

31 Education Capital Programme 2024/28 - Progress 31

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing performance information for the Education part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Education Capital Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2024/28 Capital programme be noted; and

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(2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) general lifecycle works, (b) Public Private Partnership (PPP) Schools, (c) Estate Lifecycle Programme 2024/25, (d) Artificial Pitches Asset Plan, (e) Active Panel Refresh, and (f) Net Zero.

32 Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 32

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on local and national projects and initiatives linked to education.

Decided:

(1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Care Inspectorate inspection outcome for Blairmore Early Learning Centre and Newark Nursey School, (b) education reform, (c) Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessments, (d) teacher numbers, and (e) Play 4 All Out of School and Holiday Care; and

(2) that it be noted (a) that officers will provide a further report to this Committee on the outcome of the Phase 1 consultation to evaluate the priority for places at Play 4 All Out of School and Holiday Care, and (b) that the Committee will be updated as to the progress of further consultation and reviews of Out of School holiday and childcare for pupils with Additional Support Needs.

33 Outcome of Consultation Regarding Future Leadership Model – Newark Nursey School 33

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the outcome of the pre-consultation process relating to the future leadership model of Newark Nursery School, and (2) recommending a single option to take forward to statutory consultation.

Decided: that approval be given to the commencement of a formal consultation process with key stakeholders of Newark Nursery School for it to become a standalone Early Learning Centre under the leadership of a Head of Centre, all as detailed at appendix 1 to the report.

34 Attendance Policy 34

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the new Attendance Policy for over the Education Service.

Decided: that the Attendance Policy be approved.

35 Future of Additional Support Needs Specialist Provision 35

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the future requirements of Additional Support Needs (ASN) provision from August 2025, and (2) seeking agreement for a statutory consultation relating to the introduction of a new ASN provision at Clydeview Academy.

Councillors Reynolds and Robertson declared connections as members of Clydeview Academy Parent Council. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

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(1) that the Committee note (a) the content of the report, and (b) that a report will be brought to a future meeting to update on progress with planning for ASN provision for August 2025; and

(2) that (a) approval be given to a statutory consultation relating to the introduction of a new ASN provision at Clydeview Academy for 2025, and (b) it be noted that a report on this consultation will be brought back to Committee in the spring once the consultation is complete.

36 Early Years – Partner Providers Overspend

36

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing detail on proposed actions to address a previously reported overspend of £230,000 in Early Years Partner Provider payments caused by a higher than budgeted number of placements in private nurseries, (2) noting that a previous Committee decision to implement a delayed start date for two and three-year-olds within early years establishments has saved £70,000, and (3) seeking approval to delete 3.43 FTE vacant posts.

The Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advised of a typographical error at paragraph 1.3, and accordingly the report should read 'This leaves £35,000 which the CMT are recommending is funded from the Corporate Pressures Budget'.

Decided:

(1) that the actions proposed by officers to address the £230,000 Budget pressure be noted;

(2) that the deletion of 3.43 FTE vacant posts to save £125,000 from 2025/26 be approved; and

(3) that it be noted that the Council has been asked to allocate £35,000 to address the overspend from the Corporate Pressures Budget and that this will be considered at a Special meeting of the Council on 23 January 2025.

37 Update on Senior Phase Curriculum Consultation

37

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Senior Phase Curriculum consultation recently undertaken.

Decided: that the recommendations contained within the report to amend the Senior Phase timetable model to begin from 2025/26, and allow young people in S4 to take up to seven courses as opposed to the current six, be approved.

38 Update to School Transport Policy

38

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for a number of minor updates to the Policy on Provision of School Transport.

The Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources advised of a typographical error at paragraph 1.3, and accordingly the report should read 'This has been updated as and when required over recent years and when changes have been identified.'

Councillor Armstrong declared a connection as a committee member of Inverclyde Voluntary Council of Social Services which provides transport. 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

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 JANUARY 2025

and was declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the updates to the Policy on Provision of School Transport, as detailed at appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

39 School Term Dates – Session 2026/27**39**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for setting the school term dates for the session 2026/27.

Decided: that the term dates for 2026/27, as detailed at appendix 1 and appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 23 JANUARY 2025

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 23 January 2025 at 4pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Hellyer, Jackson, Law, McCabe, 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
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Angela Edmiston	Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Strategic Finance)
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Armstrong, Daisley, Hellyer, Law, McCabe, McCormick and Reynolds attending remotely.

40 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

40

No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

At the commencement of proceedings, the Provost being of the opinion that the report 'Recruitment Process for the Chief Executive' by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration to allow the Council to take a view on the matter at the earliest opportunity. This was unanimously agreed in terms of the relevant Standing Order.

41 2025/26 Budget Update

41

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the position of the 2025/26 Budget following the receipt of the draft 2025/26 settlement for Inverclyde Council, and (2) thereafter seeking a number of decisions regarding the Council's 2025/26 Budget.

The Chief Financial Officer provided a verbal update and confirmed (1) the decision of the Education & Communities Committee on 21 January 2025 to approve the Community Learning & Development (CLD) workstream saving referred to in the report, and (2) that appendix 7 to the report 'Budget Overview – January 2025' therefore reflected the latest overall position on the basis that all recommendations contained within the report were approved.

Councillor Nelson joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

Decided:

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 23 JANUARY 2025

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, including (a) the improved funding settlement for 2025/26 plus associated conditions, and (b) that the figures in the report are expected to be firmed up as matters are clarified at both a local and national level;
- (2) that the Council notes (a) that clarity is awaited on the level of Scottish Government support to offset the costs associated with the increase in employers' National Insurance, and (b) the interim assumption factored into the 2025/26 Budget;
- (3) that, due to the advised timescales for the Scottish Parliamentary process, it be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Provost to arrange a Special meeting of the Inverclyde Council on 6 March 2025 to approve the 2025/26 Budget and Band D Council Tax;
- (4) that the Council approves the allocation of (a) the £700,000 Budget pressures allowance, as detailed at appendix 3 to the report, and (b) a further £500,000 to address existing budget pressures within ASN Transport (£400,000) and winter gritting (£100,000);
- (5) that it be noted that the Chief Executive will present proposals relating to Phase 3 of the Management Restructure to the next meeting of the Council;
- (6) that (a) the write-back from earmarked reserves totalling £1.368million, as detailed in appendix 4 to the report, be approved, and (b) it be noted that decisions on the use of any remaining unallocated reserves will be taken at the Budget Setting Council meeting;
- (7) that the Council notes (a) the latest position of the savings workstreams, as detailed at appendix 5 to the report, and (b) that the £520,000 saving relating to teachers will now be substituted by an equivalent amount from the £41million increased funding for teachers announced as part of the 2025/26 Scottish Budget;
- (8) that the savings listed in appendix 6 to the report, for which Elected Members received detailed savings sheets and Equality Impact Assessments on 17 December 2024, be approved;
- (9) that the Council note the verbal update provided by the Chief Financial Officer advising (a) of the decision of the Education & Communities Committee to approve the CLD workstream saving, and (b) that appendix 7 to the report 'Budget Overview – January 2025' therefore reflected the latest overall position on the basis that all recommendations contained within the report were approved;
- (10) that it be noted that the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services will present a report to the February Council meeting seeking approval to implement the Scottish Local Authority Remuneration Committee recommendations in respect of elected members remuneration; and
- (11) that the latest position of the 2025/28 Budget, as detailed at appendix 7 to the report, be noted.

42 Appointment of Vice Chair of the Integration Joint Board

42

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting that the Council appoint the Vice Chair of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board (IIJB) following the agreement that the NHS Board take over the Chair of the Board from January 2025.

Decided:

- (1) that Councillor Francesca Brennan be appointed as the Vice Chair of the IIJB; and
- (2) that it be noted that the current Councillor membership of the IIJB is:

Councillor Brennan	Councillor Clocherty as proxy
Councillor Jackson	Councillor Hellyer as proxy
Councillor Quinn	Provost McKenzie as proxy
Councillor Reynolds	Councillor Robertson as proxy

Save ScotRail Ticket Offices – Notice of Motion by Councillor Cassidy

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on a Notice of Motion by Councillor Cassidy, countersigned by Councillor Brennan, in the following terms as amended at the meeting:

“This Council Notes:

- That the Scottish Government owned rail operator ScotRail, announced on 31st October 2024 plans to reduce ticket office hours at 101 (70%) of its 143 staffed stations. This means weekly ticket office hours across the ScotRail network would reduce by around 2800 hours a week.
- ScotRail has commenced a 12-week internal staff consultation on the proposals which ends in February 2025.
- Wemyss Bay Station, the 2023 winner of Best UK Station is one of the stations affected by this announcement which will see its hours cut by 61% to 45 hours a week with a loss of 70 hours per week.
- Greenock Central station will see its current hours cut by 62% to 32 hours a week with a loss of 55 hours per week; Gourock station will see its current hours cut by 43% to 70 hours a week with a loss of 53 hours per week; Port Glasgow station will see its current hours cut by 41% to 72 hours with a loss of 50 hours per week and Greenock West station will see its current hours cut by 38% to 77 hours with a loss of 47 hours per week.
- According to Transport for All disabled people are less likely to travel by rail than non-disabled people and that around two-thirds of ScotRail stations are un-staffed.
- There is an ongoing campaign by the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) to Save ScotRail Ticket Offices.
- These proposals would close ticket offices for significant portions of the day, amounting to a reduction of one-third of overall hours at affected stations, totalling a loss of around 2,900 hours per week.
- That these controversial proposals were first introduced in early 2022 by former operator Abellio following a 21-day public consultation run by passenger watchdog Transport Focus on proposals for cuts to ticket office hours.
- These proposals in 2022 faced overwhelming public opposition with 98% of respondents objecting to the plans to reduce ticket office hours.
- That at the time, the process that the passenger watchdog had to follow when reviewing the consultation responses, meant that it could only object to proposals under a ‘narrow’ criteria relating solely to ticket sales.
- That since then ScotRail is now owned by the Scottish Government, and guidelines for ticket office closures have changed. Under the new process, Transport Focus, the passenger watchdog, must assess any closure proposals according to accessibility, safety and service quality criteria.
- That during the 2022 Public Consultation, a poll by Disability Equality Scotland of its members found that 95% objected to the proposals.
- That the RMT has highlighted that ScotRail’s plans were initially consulted on under outdated procedures, rendering them illegitimate by today’s standards.
- The Scottish Government 2022 report into women's and girls' views and experiences of personal safety when using public transport found that –women and girls feel safer when there are staffed ticket offices open during their journeys.
- Ticket office staffing is the only regulated staffing at stations, meaning cuts could lead to broader unregulated staffing reductions without future public consultation.

This Council believes:

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 23 JANUARY 2025

- Staffed ticket offices and stations are vital for making rail accessible for all, especially disabled and older people.
- These cuts will seriously impact passenger safety, accessibility and security, thus will worsen passenger service and have a detrimental impact on passenger experience of the ScotRail network.
- These cuts ignore the needs of the traveling public and put essential services at risk and will erode the quality of services in Inverclyde and around Scotland.
- That the Scottish Government, as ScotRail's owner and the body who authorised ScotRail to proceed with these cuts, must urgently intervene and instruct it to scrap the plans to cut ticket offices hours and maintain the services that passengers deserve.
- That ScotRail reliance on outdated processes renders these proposals illegitimate and warrants their immediate withdrawal.
- That protecting staffed ticket offices and stations is crucial to supporting local communities, tourism and Inverclyde's economy.

This Council agrees to:

- Voice support for RMT campaign to protect the vital services offered by staffed ticket offices and stations and commit to advocating for the vital role they play in Inverclyde alongside Trades Unions, campaign groups and disabled orgs.
- Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Scottish Government calling on them to intervene and reverse this decision and to seek a commitment to fully staffed ticket offices and stations to ensure safe, secure, and accessible railways for all.
- Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to ScotRail Managing Director to raise the Council's concerns and call on ScotRail to reverse this decision and publish the relevant Equality Impact Assessment. ScotRail will also be requested to provide a detailed impact assessment on the accessibility, safety, and economic consequences of these changes, with specific focus on Inverclyde.
- Voice its opposition to ticket office closures and to advocate for the vital role that Inverclyde ticket offices and stations play in supporting the community, tourism and Inverclyde's economy."

Following discussion, Councillor Cassidy seconded by Councillor Brennan moved that the terms of the amended Motion be approved.

As an amendment, Councillor Wilson seconded by Councillor Nelson moved that:

"This Council agrees to facilitate a meeting with ScotRail senior management, during which Elected Members can explore ScotRail's proposed development and challenges foreseen by the RMT.

The Leader of the Council is asked to write to ScotRail to organise a meeting within these Chambers within 31 days."

Following a roll call vote, 10 Members, Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Clocherty, Hellyer, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McVey and Moran voted for the motion, and 12 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brooks, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Jackson, Nelson, Quinn, Reynolds, Robertson and Wilson voted for the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the amendment be agreed; and
- (2) that the Leader of the Council be asked to write to ScotRail senior management to organise a meeting within the Council Chambers within 31 days to explore ScotRail's proposed development and challenges foreseen by the RMT.

The Provost being of the opinion that the undernoted report was relevant,

competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Council to make a decision on the matter at the earliest opportunity.

44 Chief Executive Recruitment Process

44

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy and Communications seeking the approval of Committee to appoint an executive recruitment agency to support the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive following the current Chief Executive announcing her resignation to take up the position of Chief Executive NHS Lanarkshire from 5 May 2025.

Decided:

- (1) that the appointment of an executive recruitment agency to support the process of recruitment of a new Chief Executive be agreed; and
- (2) that a report on the procedure to be followed will be presented to a future meeting of the Council.

PETITIONS COMMITTEE – 30 January 2025

Petitions Committee

Thursday 30 January 2025 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brooks, Cassidy, Curley and Hellyer.

Chair: Councillor Curley presided.

In attendance:

Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Gordon Leitch	Supervisory Engineer – Roads Design
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' and Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

In attendance also:

Alison Dickie	Chair, Gourock Community Council
Audrey Blincow	Secretary, Gourock Community Council
Bridget Millar	Cloch Road resident

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

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

45 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 45

No apologies for absence were intimated.

Certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:
Agenda Item 3 (Parking Issues at Cloch Road, Gourock Petition) – Councillor Cassidy and Councillor Hellyer.

46 Petitions Update Report 46

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services updating the Committee on the position relative to petitions previously reported on and new petitions received since the last meeting.

Decided: that the position relative to the petitions previously reported on and new petitions received since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

47 Parking Issues at Cloch Road, Gourock Petition 47

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services providing details of a petition by Gourock Community Council (1) calling on the Council to address ongoing parking issues for residents living in the stretch of Cloch

PETITIONS COMMITTEE – 30 January 2025

Road (66-68) beyond McInroy's Point and as related to Western Ferries traffic, and (2) seeking the Council to encourage stronger multi-agency working among Inverclyde Council, Western Ferries, Police Scotland and other partners to better identify this section of Cloch Road as a traffic hub and to resolve parking issues.

Councillor Cassidy declared a connection in this item as the Council's Community Council Champion and Councillor Hellyer declared a connection in that he attends meetings of the Gourock Community Council. They also formed the view that the nature of their respective connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and they were declaring for transparency.

The report advised that the petition met the petitions criteria and had received the level of public support required in terms of the approved petitions procedures. The Committee heard Mr E Montgomery and Mr G Leitch for Roads and Transportation and Ms A Dickie and Ms B Millar in support of the Petition. Ms Dickie produced two photographs in support of the petition which were circulated to Members.

Decided: that the Committee considers the issues raised in the petition have merit and remits it to the Head of Physical Assets to submit a report to a future meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee with recommendations on this matter.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 4 FEBRUARY 2025

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 4 February 2025 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Curley, Law, McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor McGuire presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Lynsey Brown	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP)
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Tracy Bunton	Revenues and Benefits Manager
Deborah Clark	Corporate Risk Adviser
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

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

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

48 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 48

No apologies for absence were intimated.

Councillor Law declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 (Inverclyde Zero Waste Food Pantries)

Certain connections were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 5 (Corporate Policy and Performance Update) – Councillor Curley.

49 2024/25 Policy & Resources and General Fund Revenue Budget 49

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Executive advising the Committee of (1) the Policy & Resources Revenue Budget 2024/25 proposed position (2) the projected overspend in the overall General Fund Revenue Budget and (3) the impact this will have on the General Fund Reserve.

The Chief Financial Officer provided a verbal update to the report, advising of a further £300,000 Energy Workstream saving in 2025/26, following a review of the utility saving.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 4 FEBRUARY 2025

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend in the Committee's Revenue Budget for 2024/25 of £220,000, a reduction of £84,000 since the last report, be noted;
- (2) that the projected overspend of £530,000 for the General Fund and the projected reserve balance of £3,940,000 be noted;
- (3) that the projected 2024/25 surplus of £10,800 for the Common Good Budget as set out in appendix 5 to the report be noted; and
- (4) that the Savings Workstream programme update as detailed in appendix 9 to the report, including the £300,000 increase in the 2025/26 Energy Workstream saving as verbally advised at the meeting, be noted.

50 Policy & Resources Capital Budget and Council 2024/28 Capital Programme 50

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing the latest position of the Policy & Resources Capital Programme and the 2024/28 Capital Programme. Councillor Law joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2024/28 Policy & Resources Capital Budget and the current position of the 2024/28 Capital Programme be noted; and
- (2) that (a) the impact of the draft Settlement from the Scottish Government on the Capital Programme be noted, and (b) it be noted that the Council will approve the 2025/28 Capital Programme at a special meeting of the Council on 6 March 2025.

51 Finance Services Update 51

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for a time limited proposed change to Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis Grant payments policy and updates on the following matters being progressed by the Finance Service (1) Non-Domestic Rate – Empty property Relief, (2) Pensions Winter Heating Payment, (3) e-billing/e-forms, (4) Scottish Welfare Fund – increased funding, and (5) Internal Audit Shared Services.

Decided:

- (1) that the various updates from the Finance Service be noted; and
- (2) that (a) the proposal to pay £100 to eligible crisis grant applicants who require assistance with heating costs be approved (b) it be noted that this policy change will be reviewed later in 2025/26.

52 Corporate Policy & Performance Update: November 2024-February 2025 52

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on Corporate Policy and Performance matters relating to (1) The Young Person's Guarantee, (2) Best Value, (3) Participatory Budgeting, (4) PG250, and (5) Public Service Awards 2024.

Councillor Curley declared a connection in this item of business as an organiser of the Port Glasgow 10K marathon race. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and he was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council formally pledging its support for the 'Young Person's Guarantee' be approved;

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 4 FEBRUARY 2025

- (2) that the latest update in relation to Best Value, Participatory Budgeting and PG250 be noted;
- (3) that the recent success for the Council at the Public Service Awards 2024 be noted; and
- (4) that it be remitted to officers to bring a report to a future meeting of the Committee providing an update on Participatory Budgeting.

53 Inverclyde Council Plan 2023/28 – Mid-Year Progress Report 2024/25 53

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (1) presenting a mid-year progress report (2024/25) on the Council Plan 2023/28 and (2) seeking approval for its publication. The progress report covers the period 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council Plan mid-year progress report 2024/25 be considered and noted; and
- (2) that the publication of the report on the Inverclyde Council website be approved.

54 Inverclyde Zero Waste Food Pantries 54

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the funding positions of the Inverclyde Zero Waste Food Pantries situated at Grieve Road, Greenock and John Wood Street, Port Glasgow and operated by the Inverclyde Community Development Trust. Councillor Law declared an interest as a Member of the Board of the Inverclyde Community Development Trust and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Decided:

- (1) that the update on Inverclyde's Zero Waste Pantries be noted;
- (2) that further funding of up to £40,000 from the Council's anti-poverty fund to support the Grieve Road Pantry until March 2026 be agreed;
- (3) that it be noted that the Inverclyde Community Development Trust has applied for external funding to support the Port Glasgow pantry beyond April 2025; and
- (4) that officers' intention to undertake work during 2025 to map Inverclyde's current position in relation to alleviating food poverty, and specifically to consider the future Food Pantry provision within Inverclyde, be noted.

Councillor Law rejoined the meeting at this juncture.

55 2025 Greenock West and Cardwell Bay Community Council Interim Election 55

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services seeking approval (1) of a timetable for an interim election for Greenock West and Cardwell Bay Community Council, and (2) to appoint the Chief Executive as Returning Officer for those elections.

Peter MacDonald advised the Committee of a typographical error in the report and, accordingly, at paragraph 3.4 the reference to '7 vacancies for members' should read '8 vacancies for members'.

Councillor Cassidy was present as a Member with a specific interest in the item as the Community Council Champion and, with the consent of the Convenor, participated in the debate.

Decided:

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 4 FEBRUARY 2025

(1) that it be agreed to hold an interim election for the Greenock West and Cardwell Bay Community Council;

(2) that (a) it be agreed to appoint the Chief Executive to act as Returning Officer for the Interim Election, and (b) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to administer the interim election on the Council's behalf; and

(3) that (a) the provisional election timetable as detailed in appendix 1 to the report be approved, and (b) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive (as Returning Officer) to make such changes to this timetable as are considered appropriate for the effective administration of the election and to take account of the views of Greenock West and Cardwell Bay Community Council.

56 Corporate Risk Register – Remit from Audit Committee**56**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting consideration of a remit from the Audit Committee relative to the Corporate Risk Register.

Decided: that the most significant corporate risks facing the Council and the key actions being taken by the Council in response to them, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be noted.

57 OD, Policy and Communications Policy Updates**57**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications seeking approval for the following updates policies (a) Infection Control Policy, (b) Reservists Policy, (c) Moving and Handling Policy, and (d) Discipline and Supporting Performance Policy.

Decided: that the updates policies be approved.

PLANNING BOARD – 5 FEBRUARY 2025

Planning Board

Wednesday 5 February 2025 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, McCabe, McGuire and McVey.

Chair: Councillor McVey presided.

In attendance:

Carrie Main	Senior Planner
Gordon Leitch	Team Leader (Consultancy) – Roads and Transportation
Elaine Provan	Supervisory Engineer – Traffic & Transportation
Emma Peacock	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Curley, McCabe and McGuire attending remotely.

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

58 APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 58

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Law.

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

Agenda Item 2(a) (Demolition of part of the shopping centre, installation of a new façade and associated works: Oak Mall, Hamilton Gate, Greenock (24/0251/IC)) – Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley and McGuire.

59 PLANNING APPLICATIONS 59

**(a) Demolition of part of the shopping centre, installation of a new façade and associated works:
Oak Mall, Hamilton Gate, Greenock (24/0251/IC)**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration for the demolition of part of the shopping centre, installation of a new façade and associated works at the Oak Mall, Hamilton Gate, Greenock (24/0251/IC).

Councillors Crowther and McGuire declared a connection as members of the Greenock Town Centre Regeneration Forum, Councillor Clocherty declared a connection as a member of the Greenock Town Centre Regeneration Forum, a contributor to the Greenock Town Centre Charette and a Ward Councillor and Councillor Curley declared a connection having publicly expressed an opinion on Greenock town centre regeneration. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and they were declaring for transparency.

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Ms Main advised the Board of an error in the report and accordingly the 'Reason' for condition 4, which had been omitted in error, should have read as follows, 'In order to ensure that a high standard of landscaping is achieved and maintained, appropriate to the location of the site'. Ms Main indicated that should the Board be minded to grant planning permission with the conditions contained in the report, then condition 4 should include the reason as specified at the meeting.

Decided: that planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:-

(1) that the development to which this permission relates must be begun within 3 years from the date of this permission, to comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended);

(2) that the prior to the commencement of development details shall be submitted of the phasing of all developments on the site and that, for the avoidance of doubt, this shall include the demolition works, façade treatment and landscaping works, to ensure timeous provision of the public realm elements in the interests of amenity and to protect the setting of the listed building and the Conservation Area;

(3) that prior to commencement of development, elevations of the Oak Mall, including artwork, signage and all external materials and finishes (including trade names and samples where necessary) shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Planning Authority, to ensure the use of a quality of materials appropriate to the setting. Thereafter, development and work shall progress in accordance with these approved details;

(4) that no development shall commence until a detailed landscaping plan is submitted which details a scheme of hard and soft landscaping works, a phasing plan and maintenance plan have been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Planning Authority. Details of the scheme shall include:

i. all earthworks and existing and finished ground levels in relation to an identified fixed datum point;

ii. a plan showing existing landscaping features and vegetation to be retained;

iii. the location and design, including materials, of any existing or proposed walls, fences and gates;

iv. all soft landscaping and planting works, including plans and schedules showing the location, species and size of each individual tree and/or shrub and planting densities; and

v. a programme for preparation, completion and subsequent on-going maintenance and protection of all landscaping works;

landscaping works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme. All planting, seeding or turfing as may be comprised in the approved details shall be carried out in the first planting and seeding seasons following the commencement of development, unless otherwise stated in the approved scheme. Any trees or plants which within a period of five years from the completion of the development die, for whatever reason are removed or damaged shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of the same size and species, in order to ensure that a high standard of landscaping is achieved and maintained, appropriate to the location of the site;

(5) that the new built elements of the proposal hereby permitted shall be designed to ensure that at least 15% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation of operation of low and zero carbon generating technologies, details of which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to the erection of the dwellings, to comply with the requirements of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;

(6) that footway access shall be maintained between Clyde Square and Hunters Place or diversion routes clearly identified with access for wheelchairs, in the interests of suitable and safe accessibility;

(7) that all footways and footpaths should be a minimum of 2.0m wide, in the interests of suitable safe accessibility;

(8) that all areas of block paving shall be impermeable, to help to prevent flooding;

(9) that this application follows the flood risk assessment and drainage strategy

PLANNING BOARD – 5 FEBRUARY 2025

approved for the wider demolition works under application 19/0285/IC, in the interests of preventing flooding;

(10) that all surface water during and after development is to be maintained within the site boundary, to help to prevent flooding;

(11) that confirmation of connection to Scottish Water Network should be submitted for approval prior to the commencement of development, to ensure that drainage arrangements will satisfactorily be addressed;

(12) that all surface water run-off from the site shall be limited to that of greenfield, to reduce the risk of flooding in the wider area;

(13) that any proposal for demolition that is within the Trunk Road Boundary or may have effect on the Trunk Road or its infrastructure should be made in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges CG 300 'Technical approval of highway structures', to maintain safety for members of the public; to minimise interference with the safety and free flow of the traffic on the trunk road; to ensure the integrity of the trunk road structure is not compromised;

(14) that during the demolition process, Transport Scotland's staff or its Operating Company, must be able to have full access to the A78(T) Trunk Road Structure and A78(T) Road above, to maintain safety for members of the public; to minimise interference with the safety and free flow of the traffic on the trunk road; to ensure the integrity of the trunk road structure is not compromised;

(15) that measures must be implemented to ensure that Transport Scotland's structure is not affected during or following the demolition process and that unhindered access is made available to Transport Scotland both during and following the demolition process and redevelopment of the land adjacent and beneath the bridge, to maintain safety for members of the public; to minimise interference with the safety and free flow of the traffic on the trunk road; to ensure the integrity of the trunk road structure is not compromised;

(16) that Transport Scotland's structure must not be touched during the demolition. The Developer / Consultant must seek approval from the Structures Team in Transport Scotland prior to any works commencing on, adjacent to or below the road or structure, to maintain safety for members of the public; to minimise interference with the safety and free flow of the traffic on the trunk road; to ensure the integrity of the trunk road structure is not compromised;

(17) that no works shall be undertaken until a Method Statement for the demolition has been submitted and approved by the Planning Authority, in consultation with Transport Scotland as the Trunk Road Authority. The Method Statement will cover the following aspects:

- how the integrity of the structure will be monitored during the demolition works;
 - how the substantial building sub-frames located at and beneath the structure will be dealt with;
 - how the foundations for the buildings beneath the structure are to be dealt with;
 - identify what is currently attached to the structure and how they propose to remove those items and make good any damage;
 - there is record of asbestos being within the ceiling space of the Mall, details of how this will be managed during the demolition will be required;
 - how the works will be screened at the bridge structure to ensure that there is no driver distraction or dust / debris on the trunk road;
 - access arrangements for staff from Transport Scotland, and its Operating Company, to inspect and observe the works;
 - a traffic management plan and programme of works as they affect the A78(T) shall be agreed in writing with Transport Scotland and continually updated as works proceed;
- to maintain safety for members of the public; to minimise interference with the safety and free flow of the traffic on the trunk road; to ensure the integrity of the trunk road structure is not compromised; to minimise the distraction to drivers on the trunk road;
- (18) that no development shall take place until the developer has secured the

PLANNING BOARD – 5 FEBRUARY 2025

implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and agreed in writing by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented and that all recording and recovery of archaeological resources is undertaken to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, in the interests of antiquity;

(19) that prior to the start of development, details of a survey for the presence of Japanese Knotweed shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the planning authority and that, for the avoidance of doubt; this shall contain a methodology and treatment statement where any is found. Development shall not proceed until appropriate control measures are implemented. Any significant variation to the treatment methodology shall be submitted for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation, to help arrest the spread of Japanese Knotweed in the interests of environmental protection;

(20) that the development shall not commence until an Environmental Investigation and Risk Assessment, including any necessary Remediation Scheme with timescale for implementation, of all pollutant linkages has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the planning authority. The investigations and assessment shall be site-specific and completed in accordance with current codes of practice. The submission shall also include a Verification Plan. Any subsequent modifications to the Remediation Scheme and Verification Plan must be approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation, to satisfactorily address potential contamination issues in the interests of human health and environmental safety;

(21) that before the development hereby permitted is occupied the applicant shall submit a report for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority, confirming that the works have been completed in accordance with the agreed Remediation Scheme and supply information as agreed in the Verification Plan. This report shall demonstrate that no pollutant linkages remain or are likely to occur and include (but not limited to) a collation of verification/validation certificates, analysis information, remediation lifespan, maintenance/aftercare information and details of all materials imported onto the site as fill or landscaping material. The details of such materials shall include information of the material source, volume, intended use and chemical quality with plans delineating placement and thickness, to ensure contamination is not imported to the site and confirm successful completion of remediation measures in the interests of human health and environmental safety; and

(22) that the presence of any previously unrecorded contamination or variation to anticipated ground conditions that becomes evident during site works shall be brought to the attention of the Planning Authority and the Remediation Scheme shall not be implemented unless it has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure that all contamination issues are recorded and dealt with appropriately.

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 5 FEBRUARY 2025

Local Review Body

Wednesday 5 February 2025 at 4pm

Present: Councillors Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, McCabe, McGuire and McVey.

Chair: Councillor McVey presided.

In attendance:

Margaret Pickett	Senior Planner (Planning Adviser)
Emma Peacock	Solicitor (Legal Adviser)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillor Curley, McCabe and McGuire attending remotely.

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

60 APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 60

No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

61 PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW 61

**(a) Erection of dwelling and garage:
Whinhill Lodge, Glenbrae Road, Greenock (24/0112/IC)**

There was submitted papers relative to the application for review for the erection of a dwelling and garage at Whinhill Lodge, Glenbrae Road, Greenock (24/0112/IC) to enable the Local Review Body to consider the matter afresh.

Ms Pickett acted as Planning Adviser relative to this case.

Ms Peacock referred to a new matter raised on behalf of the applicant's agent, namely a statement of appeal and flood risk map. The Local Review Body was provided with a justification from the agent for the inclusion of the new matter after which the Local Review Body agreed that it would take regard of the new matter in determining the application for review.

Decided:

(1) that sufficient information had not been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and

(2) that, in terms of Regulation 16 of the Town & Country Planning (Schemes of Delegation and Local Review Body Procedure) (Scotland) Regulation 2013, consideration of the application for review be continued for an unaccompanied site inspection to be arranged by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services in consultation with the Chair.

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 6 FEBRUARY 2025

Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 6 February 2025 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Crowther, Daisley, Hellyer, Jackson (for Clocherty), Reynolds and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources (for Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development)
Hugh Scott	Service Manager Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Martin McNab	Public Protection Manager
Anne Sinclair	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Karen McVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader

In attendance also:

Rhona Fraser	Chief Superintendent, Local Police Commander, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
David Doherty	Chief Inspector, Area Commander, Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
Kevin Murphy	Area Commander, Service Delivery, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Daisley, Jackson and Reynolds attending remotely.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed to the meeting Chief Superintendent Rhona Fraser, the newly appointed Divisional Commander of K Division.

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

62 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

62

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Law, Quinn and Clocherty with Councillor Jackson substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 6 FEBRUARY 2025

63 Police Scotland Performance Report

63

Prior to discussion on this item, Chief Superintendent Fraser acknowledged the recent incident that had taken place at the Mosque in Greenock and conveyed her thanks to partners and the community for their assistance. There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 31 October 2024. Members expressed concern about the number of hate crimes recorded in Inverclyde in the reporting period, the view was expressed that it would be beneficial to have information showing the comparison with the same period in the previous year. Chief Superintendent Fraser reported that in addition to the impact of new legislation, changes in methodology and counting rules arising from the new systems make comparisons with previous years challenging. It was noted that a Police Scotland spotlight report on this matter would be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel. During the course of discussion on this item, it was noted that race was the most commonly targeted protected characteristic in Inverclyde hate crime. The Chief Superintendent provided an overview of initiatives in place to promote awareness of hate crime, adding that information on the national campaign would be circulated to Members. Chief Inspector Doherty advised that Police Scotland officers from the Prevention and Intervention Team visited schools in the area last year to raise awareness of this matter and are scheduled to visit the main secondary schools in the coming months to deliver an upgraded initiative specifically targeting S4, S5, and S6 pupils. He also informed the Panel of his recent visit to Inverclyde Muslim Centre which was also attended by senior Inverclyde officials, where they met with representatives from the Mosque to provide reassurance and to demonstrate their support to the community.

Decided:

- (1) that the information contained in the report be noted; and
- (2) that a Police Scotland spotlight report on hate crime be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

64 Scottish Fire & Rescue Performance Report

64

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2024. Area Commander Murphy provided assurance and encouragement to safeguard the Inverclyde Community. During the course of discussion on this item Members were advised that there was a 79 % reduction on the year on year indicator for accidental dwelling fires with a 22 % reduction in the three year average indicator. It was noted that the statistics for deliberate fire setting for Inverclyde this reporting period shows a 45% reduction in the year on year indicator along with a 7% decrease in the three year average. Area Commander Murphy advised Members that the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service continue to engage with communities; targeting those most at risk of fire, conducting Home Fire Safety Visits and delivering fire safety education and advice.

Decided: that the information contained in the report be noted.

65 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Revised Home Fire Safety Visit Programme

65

There was submitted a report by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service providing (1) an overview of the revised Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Home Fire Safety Visit programme and (2) details on how partner organisations can assist the service to make communities safer through the delivery of this key fire safety programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the information contained in the report be noted; and

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 6 FEBRUARY 2025

(2) that a further update report be submitted to the Panel in 12 months' time.

66 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report**66**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on current and emerging issues relating to Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Services.

Decided:

(1) that the updates on the following matters be noted (a) The Scottish Police Authority Board, (b) COSLA/Local and Regional Scrutiny Engagement, (c) Mental Health Distress and Vulnerability, (d) Criminal Justice Committee pre-budget evidence session, (e) Force Mobilisation Model, (f) Pay Award 2024-25, (g) Police Estates Masterplan, (h) Police Scotland Domestic Abuse Campaign, (i) HMICS – Thematic Inspection of Road Policing in Scotland, (j) Scottish Fire & Rescue Service – Local Fire & Rescue Plans and (k) Inverclyde Fire Skills Course.

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 12 FEBRUARY 2025

General Purposes BoardWednesday 12 February 2025 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty (for Cassidy), Curley, Hellyer, Jackson, Nelson, Quinn and Reynolds.

Chair: Councillor Jackson presided.

In attendance:

David Keenan	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Fiona Denver	Senior Paralegal Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer

In attendance also: Sergeant Sharon Finlay (Police Scotland).

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan and Reynolds attending remotely.

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

67 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 67

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Cassidy, with Councillor Clocherty substituting, and Councillor McCabe.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

68 Request for Suspension of a Taxi Driver's Licence 68

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider (1) the immediate suspension of a Taxi Driver's Licence, and (2) whether to further suspend the licence as the Board may determine, to which the Board decided to (1) uphold the immediate suspension and (2) continue the suspension for the unexpired portion of the licence or until the acquittal of all criminal charges against the Licenceholder and in that event delegated authority be granted to the Legal Services Manager to lift the suspension, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

69 Request for Suspension of a Taxi Driver's Licence 69

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider (1) the immediate suspension of a Taxi Driver's Licence, and (2) whether to further suspend the licence as the Board may determine, to which the Board decided, after a vote, to (1) uphold the immediate suspension and (2)

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continue the suspension for the unexpired portion of the licence or until the acquittal of all criminal charges against the Licenceholder and in that event delegated authority be granted to the Legal Services Manager to lift the suspension, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 13 FEBRUARY 2025

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 13 February 2025 at 4pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Hellyer, Jackson, 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
Moran Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Craig Given	Chief Finance Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (for Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership)
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
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 Cassidy, Crowther, Daisley, McCormick, McGuire and Reynolds attending remotely.

70 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 70

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McCabe.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

71 Chief Executive Recruitment Process 71

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications seeking agreement for the procedure to be implemented for the recruitment of a new Chief Executive. The report provided detail on the current recruitment process and offered options for Elected Members to consider to change this process.

After discussion, Councillor Moran seconded by Councillor McGuire moved that the current process be changed and that Option 2 as detailed in the report be agreed, namely that the composition of the shortlisting and final interview panel comprise of the same 7 Elected Members, with a composition of 3 Labour, 2 SNP, 1 Conservative and 1 Independent Elected Members.

As an amendment Councillor Robertson moved that the current process be continued, as detailed at Option 1 in the report, namely that 6 Elected Members form the shortlisting panel and all Elected Members be involved in the final interviews.

Following a roll call vote, 7 Members, Councillors Armstrong, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Quinn, Reynolds, and Robertson voted for the amendment, and 12 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Hellyer, Jackson, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran and Wilson voted for the motion which was declared carried. Councillor Nelson abstained from voting.

Decided:

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 13 FEBRUARY 2025

- (1) that the current process for the recruitment of a new Chief Executive be changed and that Option 2 as detailed in the report be agreed, namely that the composition of the shortlisting and final interview panel comprise of the same 7 Elected Members, with a composition of 3 Labour, 2 SNP, 1 Conservative and 1 Independent Elected Members;
- (2) that the Assessment Centre process be noted; and
- (3) that Elected Members forward their nominations for the panel to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services by close of business on Monday 17 February 2025.