

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.

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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.

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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

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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

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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

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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.