



**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 10 April 2025

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 11 DECEMBER 2024

General Purposes Board**Wednesday 11 December 2024 at 3pm**

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Cassidy, Curley, Jackson, 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
Andrew McKay	Housing Officer, Environmental & Public Protection

In attendance also: Sergeant I Robertson (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.

602 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 602

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Hellyer and Councillor McCabe.

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

Agenda Item 3 (Registration of Private Landlord) – Councillor Curley.

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.

603 Application for Renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence 603

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider an application for the renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence which was granted, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

604 Registration of Private Landlord 604

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment and Regeneration requesting the Board to consider an application for Landlord Registration which was refused, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

Councillor Curley declared a connection as a registered landlord. 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 was declaring for transparency.

605

Grant of Short-Term Let Licence

605

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider an application for the grant of a Short-Term Let Licence for secondary letting which was granted, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

**APPOINTMENT PANEL
HEAD OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND JUSTICE
4 NOVEMBER 2024**

Appointment Panel – Head of Children, Families and Justice

6 November 2024 at 12pm

Present: Councillor Moran.

Chair: Chief Executive presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
David Gould	Non Executive Member NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Natalie Smith	Depute Director NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

In attendance also: Morna Rae, Head of Organisational Development, Policy and Communications (as Adviser to the Panel)

The meeting was held by video-conference.

Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

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

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 for the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

Shortlisting and Arrangements for Interview of Applicant – Post of Head of Children, Families and Justice

There were submitted copies of applications received from 12 candidates for the post of Head of Children, Families and Justice.

Decided: that a shortlist of 5 candidates be called for interview, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

**APPOINTMENT PANEL
HEAD OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND JUSTICE
22 NOVEMBER 2024**

Appointment Panel – Head of Children, Families and Justice

22 November 2024 at 10:30am

Present: Councillor Moran.

Chair: Chief Executive presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
David Gould	Non Executive Member NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Natalie Smith	Depute Director NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

In attendance also: Morna Rae, Head of OD, Policy and Communications (as Adviser to the Panel)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock.

Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

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

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 for the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

Interview of Applicants – Post of Head of Children, Families and Justice

x

The Panel interviewed four candidates and agreed to appoint Margaret McIntyre to the post of Head of Children, Families and Justice, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 27 FEBRUARY 2025

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 27 February 2025 at 4pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, 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
Katrina Phillips	Interim 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

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

76 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 76

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

No declarations of interest were intimated.

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

77 Local Review Body - 4 December 2024 77

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

78 Inverclyde Council - 5 December 2024 78

Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie subject to the correction at paragraph 586 which should read: Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee: Convener - Councillor McGuire/Vice-Convener - Councillor Moran.

79 Audit Committee - 7 January 2025 79

Approved on the motion of Councillor Curley.

80 Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel - 14 January 2025 80

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 27 FEBRUARY 2025

Approved on the motion of Councillor Brennan.

81 Environment & Regeneration Committee - 16 January 2025 81

Approved on the motion of Councillor Cassidy.

82 Education & Communities Committee - 21 January 2025 82

Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.

83 Inverclyde Council (Special) - 23 January 2025 83

Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.

84 Petitions Committee - 30 January 2025 84

Approved on the motion of Councillor Curley.

85 Policy & Resources Committee - 4 February 2025 85

Approved on the motion of Councillor McGuire.

86 Planning Board - 5 February 2025 86

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

87 Local Review Body – 5 February 2025 87

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

88 Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel - 6 February 2025 88

Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.

89 General Purposes Board - 12 February 2025 89

Approved on the motion of Councillor Jackson.

90 Inverclyde Council (Special) - 13 February 2025 90

Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.

91 Council Representation on the Board of River Clyde Homes 91

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

92 Implementation of SLARC Report's Recommendations 92

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) requesting that the Council notes the outcome of the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC) report relating to the remuneration of

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 27 FEBRUARY 2025

Elected Members of local authorities in Scotland and the forthcoming implementation by legislation from 1 April 2025 of some of the recommendations in that report including updated salaries for elected members, (2) seeking agreement for the number of and remuneration to Senior Councillors, as detailed in a number of options at paragraph 3.14 of the report, and (3) seeking confirmation of the level of remuneration payable to the Civic Head of the Council in terms of the 2025 Regulations and that the same will be paid to the Provost of Inverclyde Council.

Decided:

(1) that the recommendations of the SLARC Report and the forthcoming implementation by the 2025 Regulations of the reports recommendations relating to pay and banding be noted;

(2) that the remuneration to be paid to the Council Leader (£50,063) and Elected Members who are not Senior Councillors (£25,982) from 1 April 2025 be noted;

(3) that (a) it be agreed that Option 4 be implemented, namely that the number of Senior Councillors be increased from 9 to 10 and that those Senior Councillors be paid the maximum salary of £31,765 from 1 April 2025, and (b) that the Convener of the Policy & Resources Committee be added to the list of Senior Councillors so that the list of Senior Councillors is as follows:

Leader of the Largest Non-Administration Group

Depute Leader

Convener – Audit Committee

Convener – Education & Communities Committee

Convener – Environment & Regeneration Committee

Convener – Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Chair – Inverclyde Licensing Board

Chair – General Purposes Board

Chair – Planning Board

Convener – Policy & Resources Committee; and

(4) that the level of remuneration payable to the Civic Head of the Council in terms of the 2025 Regulations be £37,458 per annum and that this be paid to the Provost of Inverclyde Council.

93 Management Structure – Phase 3

93

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (1) advising that phase 3 of the ongoing management review has been paused (a) as the current Chief Executive is leaving Inverclyde Council on 5 May 2025, and (b) until a new Chief Executive is in post, and (2) seeking agreement that the Council rejoins Digital Office currently hosted by COSLA.

Decided:

(1) that it be agreed (a) to pause phase 3 of the management review, and (b) a further report with recommendations for the management structure will be brought to a future meeting of the Inverclyde Council once a new Chief Executive is in place; and

(2) that it be agreed the Council rejoins Digital Office to increase the Council's capacity to deliver digital transformation at a cost of £32,484 per year on a reoccurring basis.

94 Scheme of Administration – Appointments and Political Balance

94

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) requesting that the Council appoints a new Elected member to the Board of River Clyde Homes following the resignation of Councillor Curley, (2) advising that Councillor Robertson has resigned as leader of the SNP Group and that Councillor Curley

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 27 FEBRUARY 2025

has been appointed as the group's new leader and is now, consequently, the Leader of the Largest Non-Administration Group, (3) advising that the administrative suspension of Councillor McCabe from the Labour Group has now been lifted meaning that Councillor McCabe now sits on the Council as part of the Labour Group, (4) advising of the amendments required to ensure political balance and compliance with other governance requirements on Committee, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies, (5) advising of proposed changes to the membership of the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies, some of which are required as a consequence of the events referred to and some requested for other reasons, and (6) seeking agreement for the membership of such Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies where appropriate.

Decided:

- (1) that following the resignation of Councillor Curley from the Board of River Clyde Homes that Councillor Brennan be appointed as a replacement;
- (2) that the appointment of Councillor Curley as the new leader of the SNP group and Leader of Largest Non-Administration Group be noted;
- (3) that the lifting of the suspension of Councillor McCabe from the Labour Group and that Councillor McCabe now sits on the Council as a member of the Labour Group be noted;
- (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; and
- (5) that the changes to the membership of Inverclyde Council's Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies be agreed as follows:
 - Policy & Resources Committee – Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as a member of the Labour Group
 - Environment & Regeneration Committee – Councillor Daisley to replace Councillor Robertson
 - Education & Communities Committee – no change
 - Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel - Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as a member of the Labour Group
 - Audit Committee - Councillor Reynolds to replace Councillor Robertson
 - General Purposes Board - Councillor Moran to replace Councillor McCabe
 - Planning Board - Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as a member of the Labour Group
 - Human Resources Appeals Board – no change
 - Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee - Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as a member of the Labour Group and Councillor Curley to replace Councillor Robertson
 - Grants Sub-Committee – no change
 - Local Review Body - Councillor McCabe to occupy seat as a member of the Labour Group
 - Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee – no change
 - Petitions Committee – no change
 - Licensing Board – Councillor Daisley to replace Councillor Robertson
 - Convention of Scottish Local Authorities - Councillor Curley to replace Councillor Robertson
 - Inverclyde Task Force - Councillor Curley to replace Councillor Robertson

Private Appendices to Minutes

95 General Purposes Board – 12 February 2025

95

Approved on the motion of Councillor Jackson.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 28 FEBRUARY 2025

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Friday 28 February 2025 at 1pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, McCormick, Nelson, Quinn, Robertson (for Daisley) and Wilson (for Brooks).

Chair: Councillor Cassidy presided.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Crowther, Jackson, McCormick, Robertson and Wilson attending remotely.

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

96 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

96

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Brooks, with Councillor Wilson substituting and Councillor Daisley, with Councillors Robertson substituting.

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

Agenda Item 2 (Variation of Lease between the Council and Clydeport Operations Limited of Subjects at Greenock Ocean Terminal) – Councillors Clocherty and Curley.

During consideration of this item of business Councillor Wilson left the meeting due to connectivity issues.

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 & 9 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

97 Variation of Lease between the Council and Clydeport Operations Limited of Subjects at Greenock Ocean Terminal

97

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking authority for a variation of the lease currently in place between the Council and Clydeport Operations Limited.

Councillors Clocherty and Curley declared a connection as Directors of Inchgreen Marine Park. 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 they were declaring for transparency.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 28 FEBRUARY 2025

Decided: following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended, all as detailed in the private appendix.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 4 MARCH 2025

Audit Committee

Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Cassidy (for Clocherty), Crowther, Curley, Hellyer, Law, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Nelson and Wilson

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Vicky Pollock	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Samantha White	Principal Accountant (for Chief Officer Inverclyde HSCP)
Andi Priestman	Chief Internal Auditor
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Gerard Smith	Capital Assets Principal Accountant
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader

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

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

98 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 98

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

No declarations of interest were intimated.

99 Internal Audit Progress Report – 1 November to 31 December 2024 99

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

Decided: that the progress made by Internal Audit in the period of 1 November to 31 December 2024 be noted.

100 External Audit Action Plans – Current Actions 100

There was submitted a report by the Chief Internal Auditor on the status of current External Audit actions at 31 December 2024.

Decided: that the progress made in the implementation of External Audit actions be noted.

101 Review of Local Code of Governance 2024-25**101**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Internal Auditor advising Members that a review of the Local Code of Governance has been undertaken and there were no significant changes identified.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the Local Code of Governance for 2024-25; and
- (2) that it be noted that the Local Code of Governance will be used as the basis for the annual review of the Council's governance framework to inform the Annual Governance Statement 2024-25.

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 5 MARCH 2025

Local Review Body

Wednesday 5 March 2025 at 4pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley and McCabe.

Chair: Councillor Curley presided.

In attendance:

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

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

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

102 APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 102

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McVey, with Provost McKenzie substituting and Councillor McGuire.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

103 CONTINUED PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW 103

**(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, consideration of which had been continued from the meeting held on 5 February 2025 for an unaccompanied site visit. Councillors Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley and McCabe participated in this item of business.

Ms Pickett acted as Planning Adviser relative to this case.

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 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 no development or work shall commence until a detailed specification for all proposed external materials and finishes to be used on the house (including trade names and samples where necessary) has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Planning Authority. Thereafter, development and work shall progress in accordance with

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 5 MARCH 2025

these approved details, to ensure the materials are appropriate for the rural setting to retain the amenity and character of the Inverclyde countryside;

3. that the dwellinghouse 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 dwellinghouse. Thereafter the approved low and zero carbon generating technologies shall be implemented in their approved form before the first occupation of the dwellinghouse, to comply with the requirements of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;

4. that for the avoidance of doubt the dwellinghouse shall have an Electric Vehicle Charging Point. Development shall not commence until the details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed Electric Vehicle Charging Point. Thereafter the approved details shall be implemented on site in their approved form before the first occupation of the dwellinghouse, in the interests of sustainable development and to accord with the Inverclyde Council Supplementary Guidance on Energy;

5. that driveway access should meet the road at 90 degrees, be paved for a minimum distance of 10m and the gradient should not exceed 10%, to provide a safe and practical access in the interests of road safety;

6. that the applicant shall demonstrate that a visibility splay of 2.4m x 90.0m x 1.05m can be achieved. This should be maintained in perpetuity, in the interests of road safety;

7. that prior to the commencement of development, a Surface Water Management Plan to comply with the surface water attenuation and treatment requirements described in the Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Management Assessment: Planning Guidance for Developers shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, to ensure suitable drainage is provided for the safe removal of surface and waste water from the site;

8. that all surface water should be managed within the site to prevent flooding to surrounding properties and the public road network, in the interests of sustainable development and to avoid flooding outwith the site;

9. that development shall not commence until details of a survey for the presence of Japanese Knotweed has been 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;

10. that 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;

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

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 5 MARCH 2025

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 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; and

13. that development shall not commence until details of the containers to be used to store waste materials and recyclable materials produced on the premises as well as where the containers are to be located have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The approved containers shall be implemented on site before the first use/occupation of the use of the development and thereafter retained in position, to protect the amenity of the immediate area, prevent the creation of nuisance due to odours, insects, rodents, or birds.

104 PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW

104

(a) Installation of outbuilding (in retrospect) 6 Gateside Grove, Greenock (24/0178/IC)

There was submitted papers relative to the application for review for the installation of an outbuilding (in retrospect) at 6 Gateside Grove, Greenock (24/0178/IC) to enable the Local Review Body to consider the matter afresh.

Provost McKenzie and Councillors Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley and McCabe participated in this item of business.

Ms Pickett acted as Planning Adviser relative to this case.

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, in order to gain a better understanding of the proposed development.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 6 MARCH 2025

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 6 March 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
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Lynsey Brown	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Craig Given	Chief Finance Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Margaret McIntyre	Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Angela Edmiston	Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Strategic Finance)
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Tracy Bunton	Revenue & Benefits Manager
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications

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

105 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

105

No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

At the commencement of proceedings, the Provost being of the opinion that the report 'Appointment of Council Leader' by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services 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.

106 Mr Alan Puckrin

106

Prior to the commencement of business, the Provost referred to the forthcoming retirement of Mr Puckrin, the Chief Financial Officer, and thanked him for his long and dedicated service to Inverclyde Council. The Provost added that Mr Puckrin would be much missed and wished him a long and happy retirement.

107 **2025/26 Revenue Budget, 2025/28 Capital Programme and approval of the Band D Council Tax for 2025/26** 107

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing the Council with the latest position of the 2025/26 Revenue Budget and the 2025/28 Capital Programme and thereafter seeking approval of (1) the Council's 2025/26 Revenue Budget and the 2025/28 Capital Programme, and (2) the Band D Council Tax for the year 2025/26.

Following discussion, Councillor Moran seconded by Councillor McGuire moved:

"That the Council notes that the results of the Council's Budget Consultation have been duly considered and due regard has been given to the Equality Impact Assessments, the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment, the UNCRC Impact Assessment and the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, all as relating to the savings and proposals set out in the Chief Financial Officer's report, and as referred to in paragraph 5.6 of the report.

The Council approves all the recommendations contained in the Chief Financial Officer's report, subject to those adjustments detailed in the Members Budget Working Group's Proposals as circulated (document '2025/26 Budget Proposal – Members Budget Working Group – 6 March 2025' which forms appendix 1 to the minute) including the use of available Reserves where noted.

The Council approves the following Council Tax Resolution: That Council Tax be increased by 8.5% in 2025/26 meaning that the level of Band D Council Tax for Inverclyde for 2025/26 be £1,551.30."

As an amendment Councillor Curley seconded by Councillor Reynolds moved:

"That the Council notes that the results of the Council's Budget Consultation have been duly considered and due regard has been given to the Equality Impact Assessments, the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment, the UNCRC Impact Assessment and the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, all as relating to savings and proposals set out in the Chief Financial Officer's report, and as referred to in paragraph 5.6 of the report.

The Council approves all the recommendations contained in the Chief Financial Officer's report subject to those adjustments detailed in the Scottish National Party Group's Budget Proposals as circulated (document '2025/26 Budget Proposal – Scottish National Party Group – 6 March 2025' which forms appendix 2 to the minute) including the three recurring increased budget proposals and the use of available Reserves where noted.

The Council approves the following Council Tax Resolution: That the level of Council Tax in 2025/26 is increased by 7.75% from the 2023/24 Council Tax levels and that the level of Band D Council Tax for Inverclyde for 2025/26 be £1,540.58."

Following a roll call vote, 6 Members, Councillors Armstrong, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Reynolds and Robertson voted for the amendment, and 16 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Hellyer, Jackson, Law, McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Nelson, Quinn and Wilson voted for the motion which was declared carried.

Decided:

(1) that the latest position of the 2025/26 Revenue Budget and 2025/28 Capital Programme be noted, and that after consideration of the updates provided in the report and appendices, including the Fairer Scotland Duty assessment and Equality Impact Assessments, the following be approved:

- (a) the savings/budget adjustment as detailed at appendix 2 to the report;
- (b) the retention of a £2.5million allowance to meet the estimated cost pressures for the Council arising from the increases in employers' National Insurance contributions;
- (c) the 2025/26 Council contribution to the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board, as detailed at appendix 3 to the report;

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 6 MARCH 2025

- (d) the deferral of the previously approved Inverclyde Integration Joint Board contribution of £0.5million towards the cost of Historic Child Abuse claims pending a review of reserves by the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board over 2025/26;
- (e) the creation of earmarked reserves for Probationer Teachers Income (£415,000) and Waste Recycling (£1.988million);
- (f) the 2025/28 Capital Programme, as detailed at appendix 5 to the report, which includes a £1.0million increase in the Capital Contingency and the earmarking of the sums detailed at paragraph 3.24 of the report; and
- (g) the 2025/26 Common Good Budget, as detailed at appendix 8 to the report;
- (2) that the Council notes the remaining material risks around the 2025/26 Budget and that officers will monitor and report on developments to the Policy & Resources Committee throughout 2025/26;
- (3) that the Council notes the estimated funding gap over 2026/28 of £16.6million, before any Council Tax increases, and the advice from the Chief Financial Officer to consider this when determining the use of time-limited reserves to balance the 2025/26 Revenue Budget;
- (4) that the 8.2% increase in Band D Council Tax approved on 29 February 2024 be reversed, resulting in a Band D Council Tax of £1429.77 before any approved 2025/26 increase;
- (5) that the Council approve the use of Reserves, as detailed at appendix 2 to the Motion document; and
- (6) that the Council approve the following Council Tax Resolution: That Council Tax be increased by 8.5% in 2025/26 meaning that the level of Band D Council Tax for Inverclyde for 2025/26 be £1,551.30.

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.

Prior to the consideration of the following item the Provost thanked Councillor Moran for his service as Leader of the Council.

108 Appointment of Council Leader

108

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) advising the Council that Councillor Moran had indicated his resignation from the role of Leader of the Council with effect from the consideration of this report, (2) requesting that the Council appoints a new Leader of the Council following the resignation of Councillor Moran, and (3) requesting that the Council notes changes to the Council representatives on certain Outside Bodies, detailed at paragraph 3.4 of the report, as a result of this change.

Following discussion, Councillor Clocherty seconded by Councillor Moran moved that Councillor McCabe be appointed as Leader of the Council.

As an amendment Councillor Armstrong seconded by Councillor Daisley moved that Councillor Curley be appointed as Leader of the Council.

As a further amendment Councillor Quinn seconded by Councillor Law moved that the Leader of the Council not be appointed at the meeting and that this appointment be made at a later date.

On a roll call vote between the two amendments, 2 Members, Councillors Law and Quinn, voted for their amendment, and 6 Members, Councillors Armstrong, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Reynolds and Robertson, voted for the amendment by Councillor Armstrong

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 6 MARCH 2025

seconded by Councillor Daisley. The amendment by Councillor Quinn, having received fewer votes, then fell. Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Hellyer, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Nelson and Wilson abstained from voting.

On a roll call vote between the motion and the amendment by Councillor Armstrong seconded by Councillor Daisley, 6 Members, Councillors Armstrong, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Reynolds and Robertson voted for the amendment, and 14 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Hellyer, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Nelson and Wilson voted for the motion which was declared carried. Councillors Law and Quinn abstained from voting.

Decided:

- (1) that Councillor Moran's resignation from the role of Leader of the Council with effect from consideration of this report be noted;
- (2) that Councillor McCabe be appointed as Leader of the Council; and
- (3) that the changes required to the representation on certain Outside Bodies as a result of this, as detailed at paragraph 3.4 of the report, be noted.

2025/26 Budget Proposal

Members Budget Working Group

6 March 2025

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Appendix 1 – 2025/26 Budget Summary

Appendix 2 – Reserves

Appendix 3 – Council Tax 2025/26 by Banding

Appendix 4 – 2025/28 Updated Position

Members Budget Working Group
2025/26 Budget Summary

	<u>£000</u>
Funding Gap (Appendix 4 - 6/3/25 Report)	4220
Less = 8.5% Increase in Council Tax	2975
Reserves Required	1245
	<u>0</u>
Note	<u>£000</u>
Planned elimination in use of reserves = 25/26	1245
26/27	1000
27/28	500
28/29	-
Reserves Required 2025/28	<u><u>2745</u></u>

Members Budget Working Group

	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>
<u>Reserves Available</u>		
Estimated available reserves (Para 3.20 Budget Report)	1700	
Add back previous Planned Use of Reserves	5838	
Less revised Reserves Required (Appendix 1)	(2745)	
		<u><u>4793</u></u>
 <u>Proposed use of Reserves</u>	 <u>£000</u>	
Anti Poverty Initiatives (including employability)	600	
Roads Investment	600	
ASN Initiatives/Resources	600	
Tourism	270	
Transformation	1500	
Capital Programmes (FMS Replacement)	1200	
Freedom of Inverclyde event	25	
Total	<u><u>4795</u></u>	

Band	Chargeable Properties*	Multiplier	2024/25 Council Tax (after 8.2% is reversed)	2025/26 Council Tax (8.5%)	Annual Increase	Weekly Increase
A*		200/360	£794.32	£861.84	£67.52	£1.29
A	17,469(46.44%)	240/360	£953.18	£1,034.20	£81.02	£1.55
B	5,980 (15.90%)	280/360	£1,112.04	£1,206.56	£94.52	£1.81
C	3,655 (9.72%)	320/360	£1,270.91	£1,378.94	£108.23	£2.07
D	3,380 (8.99%)	360/360	£1,429.77	£1,551.30	£121.53	£2.33
E	3,604(9.58%)	473/360	£1,878.56	£2,038.24	£159.68	£3.06
F	1,893 (5.03%)	585/360	£2,323.38	£2,520.87	£197.49	£3.79
G	1,416 (3.76%)	705/360	£2,799.97	£3,037.97	£238.00	£4.56
H	217 (0.58%)	882/360	£3,502.94	£3,800.69	£297.75	£5.71

Note - Estimated to be 37,614 Chargeable Properties. This excludes 2,237 exempt properties which gives a total of 39,851 properties in Inverclyde.

2025/28 Budget Gap - MBWG Proposal

		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2025/28
		£m	£m	£m	£m
Block Grant (Increase) -Post Floor	a/	(4.37)	0.0	0.0	(4.37)
Inflation - Pay (Non-Social Care)	b/	3.6	3.9	4.1	11.6
- Pay (Social Care)	b/	0.0	1.2	1.2	2.4
- Non-Pay (Inc Social Care)	b/	0.7	1.0	1.0	2.7
Pressures - General Pressures	c/	1.4	1.0	1.0	3.4
-Children's Services	d/	0.7	0.8	0.5	2.0
- Prudential Borrowing	e/	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
- ERS NI contribution	f/	2.5	0.0	0.0	2.5
Savings -Workstreams	g/	(2.04)	(0.17)	(0.10)	(2.31)
-Other	g/	(1.00)	(0.03)	0.0	(1.0)
Council Tax - 8.5% increase 2025/26	h/	(2.98)	0.0	0.0	(2.98)
(Increased)/Reduced Use of Reserves	i/	1.39	0.25	0.50	2.14
		<u>-</u>	<u>8.05</u>	<u>8.30</u>	<u>16.35</u>
Funding Gap		<u>-</u>	<u>8.05</u>	<u>8.30</u>	<u>16.35</u>

a/ The movement in Block Grant excludes hypothecated funding increases as these are ring fenced for specific purposes and is after the application of the Floor. Includes £520k teacher workstream substitution

b/ Pay & Non-Pay inflation in 25/26 excludes HSCP. Pay inflation based on an allowance of 3% for 2025/28.

c/ Includes £1.2m January Council, & £0.2m for SLARC in 2025/26 & £0.5m for HSCP pressures from 2026/27.

d/ 26/28 figures subject to further report

e/ Assumes no new Prudential Borrowing above that already contained in the Loans Charges Model.

f/ Reflects allowance for Council contribution to eNIC increase

g/ Reflects workstreams & savings approved up to 6.3.25 Council Budget report

h/ No Council Tax increase factored in post 25/26

i/ £1.25m from Reserves used in 2025/26 is negated over 2026/29.

2025/26 Budget Proposal

Scottish National Party Group

6 March 2025

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Appendix 1 – 2025/26 Budget Summary

Appendix 2 – Reserves

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Appendix 4 – 2025/28 Updated Position

Scottish National Party Group
2025/26 Budget Summary

	<u>£000</u>
Funding Gap (Appendix 4 - 6/3/25 Report)	4220
Add - Policy Developments	
Improved Summer Holiday Provision - ASN	300
Social Worker -Enhanced Posts x 20	100
Reinstate 2025/26 Pothole Budget cut	100
Less -7.75% Increase in Council Tax	-2713
Reserves Required	-2007
	<u>0</u>
Note	<u>£000</u>
Planned elimination in use of reserves = 25/26	2007
26/27	1000
27/28	0
28/29	0
Reserves Required 2025/28	<u><u>3007</u></u>

Scottish National Party Group

	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>
<u>Reserves Available</u>		
Estimated available reserves (Para 3.20 Budget Report)	1700	
Add back previous Planned Use of Reserves	5838	
Less revised Reserves Required (Appendix 1)	(3007)	
		<u>4531</u>
 <u>Proposed use of Reserves</u>	 <u>£000</u>	
New Inverclyde Transformation Fund	1750	
Additional Transportation Interventions	1150	
Strategic Purchase & Demolition Fund	900	
Enhanced Investment - Footways	500	
Enhanced Investment- Streetscape	100	
Crematorium Traffic Management Improvements - Feasibility Study	70	
Community Gritting Pilot Scheme	60	
Total	<u>4530</u>	

Appendix 3

Band	Chargeable Properties*	Multiplier	2024/25 Council Tax (after 8.2% is reversed)	2025/26 Council Tax (7.75%)	Annual Increase	Weekly Increase
A*		200/360	£794.32	£855.88	£61.56	£1.18
A	17,469(46.44%)	240/360	£953.18	£1,027.05	£73.87	£1.42
B	5,980 (15.90%)	280/360	£1,112.04	£1,198.22	£86.18	£1.81
C	3,655 (9.72%)	320/360	£1,270.91	£1,378.94	£108.23	£1.65
D	3,380 (8.99%)	360/360	£1,429.77	£1,540.58	£110.81	£2.13
E	3,604(9.58%)	473/360	£1,878.56	£2,024.15	£145.59	£2.79
F	1,893 (5.03%)	585/360	£2,323.38	£2,503.44	£180.06	£3.45
G	1,416 (3.76%)	705/360	£2,799.97	£3,016.97	£217.00	£4.16
H	217 (0.58%)	882/360	£3,502.94	£3,774.42	£271.48	£5.21

Note - Estimated to be 37,614 Chargeable Properties. This excludes 2,237 exempt properties which gives a total of 39,851 properties in Inverclyde.

25/02/2025

2025/28 Budget Gap - SNP Proposal

		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2025/28
		£m	£m	£m	£m
Block Grant (Increase) -Post Floor	a/	(4.37)	0.0	0.0	(4.37)
Inflation - Pay (Non-Social Care)	b/	3.6	3.9	4.1	11.6
- Pay (Social Care)	b/	0.0	1.2	1.2	2.4
- Non-Pay (Inc Social Care)	b/	0.7	1.0	1.0	2.7
Pressures - General Pressures	c/	1.4	1.0	1.0	3.4
-Children's Services	d/	0.7	0.8	0.5	2.0
- Prudential Borrowing	e/	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
- ERS NI contribution	f/	2.5	0.0	0.0	2.5
Policy Developments	j/	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5
Savings -Workstreams	g/	(2.04)	(0.17)	(0.10)	(2.31)
-Other	g/	(1.00)	(0.03)	0.0	(1.0)
Council Tax - 7.75% increase 2025/26	h/	(2.71)	0.0	0.0	(2.71)
(Increased)/Reduced Use of Reserves	i/	0.62	1.01	1.00	2.63
Funding Gap		-	8.81	8.80	17.61

a/ The movement in Block Grant excludes hypothecated funding increases as these are ring fenced for specific purposes and is after the application of the Floor. Includes £520k teacher workstream substitution

b/ Pay & Non-Pay inflation in 25/26 excludes HSCP. Pay inflation based on an allowance of 3% for 2025/28.

c/ Includes £1.2m January Council, & £0.2m for SLARC in 2025/26 & £0.5m for HSCP pressures from 2026/27.

d/ 26/28 figures subject to further report

e/ Assumes no new Prudential Borrowing above that already contained in the Loans Charges Model.

f/ Reflects allowance for Council contribution to eNIC increase

g/ Reflects workstreams & savings approved up to 6.3.25 Council Budget report

h/ No Council Tax increase factored in post 25/26

i/ £2.01m from Reserves used in 2025/26 is negated over 2026/28.

j/ Included in Appendix 1 of the Proposal

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 11 MARCH 2025

Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 11 March 2025 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Daisley, Hellyer, Jackson, McCabe and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor Brennan presided.

In attendance:

Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP) (for Chief Officer, 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)
Margaret McIntyre	Head of Children & Families and Justice (Inverclyde HSCP)
Emma Bilisland	Child's Planning and Improvement Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Rose Traynor	Mental Health Social Work Service Manager (Inverclyde HSCP)
Arlene Mailey	Service Manager, Quality & Development Service (Inverclyde HSCP)
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Alison Ramsey	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Provost McKenzie, Councillors Cassidy, Daisley, Hellyer and Robertson attending remotely.

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

- | | | |
|------------|---|------------|
| 109 | Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | 109 |
| | An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Law. | |
| | No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:
Agenda item 5 (Joint Inspection of Adult Services) – Councillor McCabe | |
| 110 | Revenue & Capital Budget Report – 2024/25 Revenue Outturn Position as at 31 December 2024 | 110 |

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 December 2024.

Decided:

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 11 MARCH 2025

(1) that the projected current year revenue outturn of £0.111million overspend at 31 December 2024 be noted;

(1) that the current projected capital position be noted; and

(2) that the current reserves position be noted.

111 Inverclyde HSCP Collaborative Care Home Support Team (CCHST) 111

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an overview of the work undertaken by the local HSCP Collaborative Care Home Support Team which included significant areas of improvement and good practice.

Decided: that the contents of the report and the assurances concerning the work of the Collaborative Care Home Support Team be noted.

112 Inspection of Children’s Residential Houses 112

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising the Panel of the outcome of the Care Inspectorate’s unannounced inspection in respect of The View children’s home on 7 and 8 January 2025.

Decided:

(1) that the content of the report and the improvement activity action plan, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, be noted; and

(2) that the thanks and appreciation of the Panel be extended to all young people and staff involved in the inspection process.

113 Joint Inspection on Adult Services: Update 113

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising the Panel of the progress made in relation to the HSCP Improvement Plan following the joint inspection by the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland of Adult Services: Integration and Outcomes, with a focus on people living with mental illness.

Councillor McCabe declared a connection in this item as an unpaid carer. 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 was declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the progress made within the Improvement Plan, as appended to the report, be noted.

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.

114 Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations 114

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 – 11 MARCH 2025

- (1) that the governance report for the period 30 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 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.

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 12 MARCH 2025

General Purposes Board

Wednesday 12 March 2025 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Cassidy, Hellyer, Jackson, Moran 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: Chief Inspector Iain Farmer and 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.

- | | | |
|------------|--|------------|
| 115 | Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | 115 |
| | Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Curley and Quinn. | |
| | 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. | |
| 116 | Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence | 116 |
| | It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda, all as detailed in the Private Appendix. | |
| 117 | Request for Renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence | 117 |
| | There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to consider an application for the renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence which was continued, all as detailed in the Private Appendix. | |

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 13 MARCH 2025

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 13 March 2025 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Jackson, Law (for Quinn) and McCormick.

Chair: Councillor McCormick 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
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' and Committee Services Team Leader
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance and Communications Manager

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Crowther, Daisley and Jackson attending remotely.

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

118 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 118

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

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

Agenda Item 9 (Local Housing Strategy Update) – Councillor Brooks.
Agenda Item 11 (Waterfront Leisure Complex – Chiller Replacement) – Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brooks and Clocherty.

119 2024/25 Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget 119

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director Environment & Regeneration advising the Committee of the Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget 2024/25 projected position.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the Committee Revenue Budget is currently projected to overspend in 2024/25 by £220,000;
- (2) that it be noted that £200,000 of the projected overspend has been addressed via additional funding from 2025/26, as agreed by the 23 January 2025 Council; and
- (3) that (a) the on-going review of Agency staff being progressed by the Director be noted, and (b) it be noted that where appropriate an update will be provided to future meetings of the Committee.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 13 MARCH 2025

- 120 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme 2024/28 – Progress 120**
- 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.
- The Head of Physical Assets advised the Committee of a typographical error in the report and accordingly the reference to “3.31” in paragraph 3.30 should read “3.29”.
- Councillor Brooks joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business.
- 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; and
- (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.
- 121 Environment and Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report 121**
- There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the progress made in the delivery of the Environment and Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the progress made in the delivery of the Environment & Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that a refreshed Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan, for reporting year 2025/26, will be presented to the next meeting.
- 122 Draft Economic Growth Plan 122**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Service – Regeneration, Planning and Public Protection providing the Committee with sight of a draft of the emerging Economic Growth Plan for Inverclyde Council.
- Decided:** that (a) the content of the Draft Economic Growth Plan be noted, and (b) further engagement to finalising a draft for referral to a future committee be agreed.
- 123 Local Development Plan: Evidence Report and Scoping Report 123**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Service – Regeneration, Planning and Public Protection seeking approval for the Local Development Plan ‘Evidence Report’ and ‘Scoping Report’, in order that both documents can be submitted to Scottish Government for Gate Check review.
- Decided:** that approval be given to the draft Local Development Plan ‘Evidence Report’ and the Local Development Plan ‘Scoping Report’ for submission to Government Gatecheck, subject to final amendments required for editorial purposes.
- 124 Roads – Proposed RAMP/Capital Programme for 2025/26 124**
- There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration and Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for a proposed programme of projects to be undertaken in 2025/26 using RAMP/Capital Funding and funding for Active Travel infrastructure projects.
- Decided:**

- (1) that the list detailed in appendix 1 to the report for the 2025/26 RAMP/Capital and Active Travel related projects be approved; and
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Physical Assets to achieve full spend of the RAMP/Capital budget and Active Travel allocation through the substitution of projects from a reserve list when necessary.

125 National Strategy for 20mph - Update

125

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets informing the Committee of the ongoing engagement with Transport Scotland on the commitment from the Scottish Government to implement the National Strategy for 20mph speed limits in all appropriate roads in built up areas by 2025.

The Committee adjourned at 3:47pm and reconvened at 3:56pm.

Following discussion Councillor Brooks moved that recommendation (2) as detailed in the report be amended to read: “(2) note and oppose in principle 20mph speed limits and the roads identified during the March 2023 assessment (and subsequent amendments) which indicate that 1,054 roads are suitable for a speed limit reduction based on the Road Assessment Guidance issued by Transport Scotland.”

As an amendment Councillor Curley moved the recommendations contained in the report. Following a roll call vote, 3 Members, Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brooks and Law voted in favour of the motion and 7 Members, Councillors Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Jackson and McCormick voted in favour of the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the position and the limited funding received from Transport Scotland in 2024/25 to support an initial assessment and further detailed design of the associated Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders signs, lines and other measures, which is currently on-going through external consultations and planned to be completed by the end of March 2025, be noted;
- (2) that the principles of 20mph speed limits and the roads identified during the March 2023 assessment (and subsequent amendments) which indicate that 1,054 roads are suitable for a speed limit reduction based on the Road Assessment Guidance issued by Transport Scotland be noted and agreed;
- (3) that Transport Scotland’s proposed route to implementation by promotion of a number of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders, followed by consultation to assess the success of the schemes to identify any changes and with final implementation through formal consultation and promotion of permanent Speed Limit Orders be noted;
- (4) that (a) the estimated cost of implementation, as outlined in paragraph 3.13 of the report, be noted, and (b) it be noted that officers will continue dialogue with Transport Scotland regarding the position on funding for implementation and report to a future meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee;
- (5) that the Scottish Government indicated timescales for implementation and the challenges associated with meeting those linked to the current inability of Transport Scotland to confirm funding support for implementation and any timing of announcement of funding support from Transport Scotland, including the finite officer resource within the Inverclyde Services that would be required to support the implementation, be noted; and
- (6) that the Transport Scotland position and the limitations on what would be covered by funding for implementation, as outlined in paragraph 3.12 of the report, and the risks passed to the Council associated with any further soft measures and (where deemed necessary) any physical speed management measures for roads not reaching a desired level of speed compliance with the likely scenario being that these roads would require to be reverted to the original speed limit in the absence of available funding to support further speed management measures, be noted.

- 126 Local Housing Strategy Update 126**
- There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on progress on delivery of the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028. Councillor Brooks declared a connection as a Member of the Board of River Clyde Homes. 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:** that (a) the progress on implementation of the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 be noted, and (b) it be agreed to receive the next annual update in March 2026.
- 127 Property Asset Management Public Report – Request Authority to Grant a Licence to Occupy, for the Installation of a Labyrinth at Lunderston Bay, Gourrock 127**
- There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration requesting authority to grant a Licence to Occupy land at Lunderston Bay, to install a Labyrinth.
- Decided:** that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Physical Assets to complete a Licence to Occupy with Compassionate Inverclyde in order that the group can install a ‘Remembering Together Labyrinth’, at the location shown on appendix 1 to the report, on the basis of the terms and conditions detailed within the body of the report and on such other terms and conditions as are recommended by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services and the Chief Financial Officer.
- 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 the respective paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act as are set opposite each item.**
- | Item | Paragraph(s) |
|---|---------------------|
| Waterfront Leisure Complex – Chiller Replacement | 6, 8 & 9 |
| Property Asset Management Private Report – Request Authority to Lease Wellington Park Bowling Club | 6 & 9 |
- 128 Waterfront Leisure Complex – Chiller Replacement 128**
- There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the tender return position in respect of the Waterfront Leisure Complex Chiller Replacement project.
- Provost McKenzie and Councillors Brooks and Clocherty declared a connection 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 they were declaring for transparency.
- Decided:** following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended, all as detailed in the private appendix.
- 129 Property Asset Management Private Report – Request Authority to Lease Wellington Park Bowling Club 129**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration requesting authority to lease the Wellington Park Bowling Club.

Decided: following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended, all as detailed in the private appendix.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2025

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Hellyer, McGuire, McVey, Nelson, Quinn, Reynolds, Robertson and Wilson (for Education business only), and Rev D Burt, Rev F Donaldson and Mr J Docherty, Church Representatives, and Ms P McEwan, Teacher 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, Inclusive Communities
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Yvonne Gallacher	Quality Improvement Manager – Early Years, Education Services
Adam Stephenson	Education Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance & Communications Manager
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

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

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

130 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 130

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson (for Communities business only), and Ms MacDonald, Parent Representative.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

131 2024/25 Communities Revenue Budget Update 131

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 £8,000 (0.1%) and that this is offset by an overall projected underspend in the Education Budget.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2025

- 132 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items 132**
- 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.
- 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) Bank Street Community Hall, and (e) 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 Kilmacalm, (v) Broomhill Way shop unit/Broomhill Beats, (vi) Inverclyde Veterans Network, and (vii) Coppermine Community Hub.
- 133 Community Learning Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport Service Annual Report 2024 133**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending the Community Learning Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport Service Annual Report for 2024.
- Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.
- 134 Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 134**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Communities aspects of the service.
- The Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources advised of a typographical error at paragraph 3.6 of the report, and accordingly the Spring Gala Concert will be on Thursday 27 March 2025.
- Decided:** that the updates on the following be noted (a) libraries as community spaces, (b) staff development, (c) Children and Young People, (d) Adult Services, (e) the Watt Institution, (f) Inverclyde Music Service, (g) developing a community safety lens for the Place Standard Tool – Inverclyde pilot site, (h) School Crossing Patroller – Sinclair Street, Greenock, (i) Hanlon Management Information System, (j) various Child Poverty Initiatives including pilot programmes in upper Port Glasgow, (k) the Child poverty Accelerator Funder Project, and (l) Outstanding Remit – new smoke alarm legislation.
- 135 Interim Review of Inverclyde’s Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2020-2025 135**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of the Inverclyde Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2025 in advance of the expiry of the previous 2020-2025 Strategy.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Inverclyde Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2025 be approved; and
 (2) that it be agreed that a full review and wider consultation on a new strategy will be undertaken following publication and consideration of the findings and recommendations from the national review of the approach towards antisocial behaviour.

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- 136 New Approach to ESOL Provision 136**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the new approach to support English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for 2025/26, which is a partnership project between Community Learning and Development and the Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Councillor McGuire left the meeting during consideration of this item of business.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the new approach to ESOL provision in Inverclyde for 2025/26 and the ongoing challenges be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to provide an update on ESOL provision within the next 12 months.
- The Communities business concluded at 2.50pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Rev Burt and Mr Docherty attending the Municipal Buildings and Councillor Wilson, Rev Donaldson and Ms McEwan joining the meeting remotely. Councillor McGuire rejoined the meeting at this juncture.**
- 137 2024/25 Education Revenue Budget Update 137**
- 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.
- Decided:** that the Committee notes that the Education Revenue Budget is currently projected to underspend in 2024/25 by £16,000 (0.01%).
- 138 Education Capital Programme 2024/28 - Progress 138**
- 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
- (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.
- 139 Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report 139**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the progress made in the delivery of the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the progress made in the delivery of the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that a refreshed Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan for

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reporting year 2025/26 will be presented to the next meeting.

- 140 Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 140**
- 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:** that the updates on the following be noted (a) Care Inspectorate inspection outcome for Gibshill Children’s Centre, (b) joint Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate inspection outcome for Wellington Children’s Centre, (c) education reform, (d) Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessments, (e) National Improvement Framework (2025), outdoor learning – schools, (f) Elective home education, (g) Equality in education – anti-racism in education, and (h) Outstanding Remit – cost of Gaelic Medium Education.
- 141 Phase 1 – Review of Play for All Out of School Childcare/Holiday Childcare Service 141**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing (1) feedback from the Play 4 All Out of School Childcare (OOSCC) and Holiday Childcare service consultation which took place in January 2025, and (2) proposals to amend the current policy.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the proposed allocations criteria for Play 4 All OOSCC and Holiday Childcare service for all new applications for the August 2025 term, as detailed at appendix 2 to the report, be agreed;
 - (2) that it be agreed that changes will be implemented for the Summer Holiday Childcare provision in 2025; and
 - (3) that it be remitted to officers to bring a further update report on this matter to a future meeting of the Committee.
- 142 Bereavement, Change and Loss Guidelines 142**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the Bereavement, Change and Loss Guidelines for noting.
- Decided:** that the Bereavement, Change and Loss Guidelines be noted.
- 143 Education Services – Child Protection Guidelines 143**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the Child Protection Guidelines for noting.
- Decided:** that the Child Protection Guidelines be noted.
- 144 Education Authority Equality Mainstreaming Report 2025, Progress on Equality Outcomes 2021/25, the Equal Pay Statement 2025 and the Proposed Equality Outcomes 2025/29 144**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the Education Authority Equality Mainstreaming Report 2025, progress on delivery of the Equality Outcomes 2021/25, the Equal Pay Statement 2025 and the Proposed Equality Outcomes for the period

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2025/29.

A typographical error was noted in the report as the Equal Pay Statement 2025, although referred to, had been omitted. The Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development advised she would review this and take appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report, with the exception of the Equal Pay Statement 2025, be noted; and
- (2) that the proposed Equality Outcomes 2025/29 be approved.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 25 MARCH 2025

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 25 March 2025 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor McGuire presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Lynsey Brown	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP)
Angela Edmiston	Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Strategic Finance)
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Vicky Pollock	Legal Services Manager
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Allan McDonald	Digital & Customer Service Manager
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance and Communications Manager

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

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

145 Mr Alan Puckrin 145

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convenor referred to the imminent retirement of Mr Alan Puckrin, the Chief Financial Officer, and thanked him for his long and dedicated service to Inverclyde Council. The Convenor added that Mr Puckrin would be much missed and wished him a long and happy retirement.

146 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 146

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

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

Agenda Item 10 (Port Glasgow 250 (PG250) Commemorations Update) – Councillors Curley and Law.

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- 147 2024/25 Policy & Resources and General Fund Revenue Budget 147**
- 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 projected position of the 2024/25 Policy & Resources Revenue, (2) the projected underspend in the overall General Fund Revenue Budget, and (3) the impact this will have on the General Fund Reserve.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the current projected underspend in the Committee’s Revenue Budget for 2024/25 of £417,000, a reduction in costs of £637,000 since the last report, be noted;
- (2) that the projected underspend of £137,000 for the General Fund and the projected reserve balance of £5.845 million as at 31 March 2025, be noted;
- (3) that the projected 2024/25 surplus of £12,100 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 be noted.
- 148 Policy & Resources Capital Budget and Council 2024/28 Capital Programme 148**
- 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.
- Decided:** that the current position of the 2024/28 Policy & Resources Capital Budget and the current position of the 2024/28 Capital Programme be noted.
- 149 Corporate Policy and Performance Update: February-March 2025 149**
- 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 review of the Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework, (2) the Best Value Improvement Plan progress report, (3) the Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment, (4) the Local Government Benchmarking Framework, and (5) VE/VJ 80th anniversary commemoration plans 2025.
- Decided:** that the latest updates relating to Corporate Policy and Performance be noted.
- 150 Policy & Resources Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report 150**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on the progress made in the delivery of the Policy & Resources Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the progress made in the delivery of the Policy & Resources Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that a refreshed Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan, for reporting year 2025/26, will be presented to the next meeting.
- 151 Data Protection Officer Annual Report 2024 151**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services providing the Data Protection Officer’s Annual Report which sets out a note of the Council’s data protection performance over the past year, together with the Data

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Protection Officer's assessment of Inverclyde Council's compliance with data protection legislation.

Decided: that the Data Protection Officer's Annual Report 2024, as set out in appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

152 Capital Strategy 2025-2035 and Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy 2025/26-2027/28 152

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer requesting the Committee remits to the Inverclyde Council, for approval, the 2025-2035 Capital Strategy and the Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy 2025/26 – 2027/28.

Decided:

(1) that (a) the Capital Strategy 2025-35, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, be noted, (b) the significant financial challenges the Council faces in maintaining the existing asset base be noted, and (c) it be agreed to remit the Capital Strategy to the Inverclyde Council for approval; and

(2) that (a) the contents of the report and the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy, as detailed in appendix 2 to the report, be noted, and (b) it be agreed to remit the report and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy to the Inverclyde Council for approval.

153 Reverting to Standard Policy for Voluntary Severance and Redeployment Arrangements and Update on Voluntary Severance Scheme Releases 153

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy and Communications (1) confirming that there will be a reversion to the standard policy for Voluntary Severance and Redeployment arrangements following a period of temporary enhancement, and (2) providing an update on the position of releases that have been agreed under the Council's Voluntary Severance Scheme since the previous report to Committee.

Decided:

(1) that it be noted that the temporary enhancements to the Voluntary Severance and Redeployment arrangements applicable to savings within the 2024-26 Budget will cease and that the standard policy will be implemented in relation to any savings realised or employee released after 31 March 2026; and

(2) that the agreement to release 15 employees under the Council's Voluntary Severance scheme, as per the private appendix to the report, be noted.

154 Equality Mainstreaming Report 2025, Progress on Equality Outcomes 2021/25, the Equal Pay Statement 2025 and the Proposed Equality Outcomes 2025/29 154

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy and Communications presenting for approval the Equality Mainstreaming Report 2025, progress on delivery of the Equality Outcomes 2024/25, the Equal Pay Statement 2025, and the proposed Equality Outcomes for the period 2025/29.

Decided:

(1) that the contents of the report be noted; and

(2) that the proposed Equality Outcomes 2025/29 be approved.

155 Port Glasgow 250 (PG250) Commemorations Update 155

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development providing an update on the year-long, planned activity for commemorating the 250th year of Port Glasgow.

Councillor Curley declared a connection as an organiser of the Port Glasgow 10k marathon race and Councillor Law as an employee of Historic Environment Scotland, the managing authority of Newark Castle. 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 participating in the decision making process and they were declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the updated be noted.

156 Review of Petitions Criteria

156

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) providing an update on the review of the Petitions Criteria following their inclusion in the Policy/Strategy Register approved at the 26 March 2024 meeting of the Committee, and (2) seeking approval for the officer recommendation that no changes be made to the current Petitions Criteria.

Mr Peter MacDonald advised the Committee of a typographical error in the report, and accordingly, the reference to “did attract” in paragraph 3.7, should read “did not attract”.

Decided:

- (1) that the outcome of the officer review of the Petitions Criteria as set out in appendix 2 to the report, be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed that no changes be made to the Petitions Criteria at this time.

157 Records Retention and Disposal Policy Update

157

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services seeking approval of an updated version of the Council’s Records Retention and Disposal Policy.

Decided: that the updated Records Retention and Disposal Policy, as appended to the report as appendix 2, be approved.

158 Unacceptable Actions Policy Update

158

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services seeking approval of an updated version of the Council’s Unacceptable Actions Policy.

Decided: that the updated Unacceptable Actions Policy, as appended to the report as appendix 2, be approved.

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 paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

159 Appendix relative to Agenda Item 8 providing additional information on the Voluntary Severance Scheme

159

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 25 MARCH 2025

There was submitted a private appendix providing additional information on the Voluntary Severance Scheme by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications.

Decided: that the appendix be noted.