

SAFE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 2 SEPTEMBER 2008

Safe, Sustainable Communities CommitteeTuesday 2 September 2008 at 3.00 pm

Present: Councillors Dorrian, Ferguson, Grieve, MacLeod, McCabe, McCallum, McIlwee, Moran, Rebecchi, Wilson and White.

Chair: Councillor Moran presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection, Chief Financial Officer, Ms L Bairden (Finance Services), Head of Environmental Services, Head of Safer Communities, Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs, Mr J Douglas (for Head of Legal & Administration), Head of Planning, Housing & Transportation and Mr W Rice (Strategic Housing Services).

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

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| 543 | Capital Programme 2008/11 - Progress | 543 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection and the Chief Financial Officer on the position of the Capital Programme 2008/11.</p> <p>Noted</p> | |
| 544 | HRA Revenue Budget Out-turn 2007/08 | 544 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection on the 2007/08 Revenue Budget out-turn position as at 31 March 2008. The report advised that the final balance on the HRA Reserve was £519,000 after a contribution from reserves in 2007/08 of £323,000, which was £81,000 more than the budgeted contribution of £242,000.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee note the transfer of £323,000 from the Housing Reserve in 2007/08; and</p> <p>(2) that the Committee note the transfer of the HRA Reserve of £519,000 to an earmarked reserve within the General Fund for Strategic Housing purposes.</p> | |
| 545 | Revenue Budget Out-turn 2007/08 and Revenue Budget 2008/09 - Period 3 | 545 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection on the 2007/08 Revenue Budget out-turn and the 2008/09 position as at Period 3 (30 June 2008) which projected an overspend of £50,000.</p> <p>Decided: that the Committee note the out-turn for 2007/08 and the reasons for the current projected overspend of £50,000 as at 30 June 2008.</p> | |
| 546 | Trading Account Revenue Budget Out-turn 2007/08 and Trading Account Revenue Budget 2008/09 - Period 3 | 546 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection on the 2007/08 Revenue Budget out-turn and the</p> | |

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position of the Roads & Vehicles Maintenance Trading Account as at Period 3 (30 June 2008) which showed a projected overspend of £204,000.

Decided:

- (1) that the out-turn for 2007/08 and the current projected overspend of £204,000 as at 30 June 2008 be noted; and
- (2) that the Committee note that the Corporate Management Team are recommending to the Policy & Resources Committee that a supplementary Revenue Budget of £200,000 be granted to the Vehicle Maintenance Trading Account to cover the unforeseen recent increased costs in fuel for vehicles.

547 Area Renewal Strategy Update

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection (1) on the progress of Area Renewal projects across Inverclyde over the first quarter 2008/09 and (2) providing a budget update in respect of Early Action Fund (EAF) grant expenditure.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress made to date on Early Action Fund grant aided projects and on projects funded by Housing Associations in support of the Area Renewal Strategy;
- (2) that the Committee note the division of expenditure between the financial years 2008/09 and 2009/10 to accommodate payment of the remaining balance of the original £15m Early Action Fund grant; and
- (3) that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on the outcome of the meeting with the Scottish Government to be held on 3 September 2008, setting out the level of funding available and how this will be allocated in future years.

548 Drumfrochar Road/Broomhill Area - Request from Councillor Blair

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources on a request received from Councillor Blair that the Committee agree that the Drumfrochar Road/Broomhill area (the area bounded by Mill Street, Drumfrochar Road, Baker Street and Wellington Street) be accepted as one requiring priority treatment by the Council and by its relevant partners.

Councillor Blair was present and spoke in relation to his request.

Mr Graham advised that the Policy & Resources Committee on 23 September 2008 would be asked to consider his report on an officer working group structure to co-ordinate and streamline the implementation of the Council's and Key Partners' Area Renewal Strategy and he suggested that it would be appropriate for Councillor Blair's request to be considered in line with the arrangements proposed in that report.

Decided: that subject to approval by the Policy & Resources Committee on 23 September 2008, Councillor Blair's request be considered in line with the Area Renewal liaison arrangements set out in the report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection.

549 River Clyde Homes - Monitoring Framework

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection informing the Committee of the monitoring arrangements which had been put in place following the successful completion of the stock transfer to River Clyde Homes in December 2007.

Councillors Ferguson and Wilson declared an interest in this matter as Board Members of

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River Clyde Homes. They also formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision making process.

(Councillors McIlwee and Wilson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the monitoring framework for River Clyde Homes as set out in the appendix to the report;
- (2) that the key points of the first Annual Monitoring Return supplied by River Clyde Homes as detailed in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.12 of the report be noted; and
- (3) that it be noted that River Clyde Homes will be introducing ICT systems and developing procedures to supply all of the required information for the 2008/09 reporting period and future years.

550 Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 - Briefing and Implementation Update

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection providing a briefing on the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 and an update on the current timetable for implementation in preparation for forthcoming changes to private housing legislation.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the officer level response to the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 draft guidance consultation as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) that approval be given to the outline proposal for the development of a Scheme of Assistance and the commitment to submit a fully working model to a future Committee in line with the Scottish Government's implementation timescales be noted;
- (3) that the Committee endorse the proposal to hold a briefing session for Members and invited guests in November 2008 in response to publication of final guidance on the Act by the Scottish Government;
- (4) that the intended implementation of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 over the forthcoming 6-18 months be noted; and
- (5) that the necessary cultural shift towards owners taking primary responsibility for maintaining their homes and the resultant change in approach to assisting owners be noted.

551 Local Energy Savings Scheme (LESS) - Development Proposal

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection on a development proposal for a Local Energy Savings Scheme (LESS) which has the potential to make a significant contribution towards tackling fuel poverty, reducing household carbon emissions and attracting inward investment to Inverclyde.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed to give strategic support to the establishment of a Local Energy Savings Scheme (LESS);
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Planning, Housing & Transportation to establish an operational Management Team to take forward strategic development, delivery and performance monitoring of the Local Energy Savings Scheme; and
- (3) that Councillor Moran be nominated to sit on the LESS Management Team.

552 Street Names

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection requesting the Committee to assign street names to six cul-de-sacs forming the new housing layout at Wren Road/Grieve Road, Greenock for Oak Tree Housing Association.

Decided: that the various street names as set out in the report be approved.

553 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order - Pennyfern Area, Greenock (One Way) Order 2008 553

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources advising that following a hearing before an independent Reporter from the Scottish Government, the direction of flow of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order - Pennyfern Area, Greenock (One Way), originally considered by the Committee in June 2007, had been reviewed and that it was recommended this be introduced as originally proposed (i.e in an anti-clockwise flow along Maple Road, Pennyfern Road and Pennyfern Drive).

Decided:

(1) that the review of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order direction of flow be approved; and

(2) that The Inverclyde Council be recommended to make a Resolution under the Road Traffic Regulation (Scotland) Act 1984 in relation to a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce one way only driving in a proposed anti-clockwise direction of flow along Maple Road, Pennyfern Road and Pennyfern Drive, Greenock and thereafter that it be remitted to the Head of Planning, Housing & Transportation and the Head of Legal & Administration to arrange for implementation of the Order.

554 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order - On-Street Parking Places (Without Charges) Order No 1 2008 554

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources recommending the making of a Traffic Regulation Order to accompany the provision of parking bays for the disabled by restricting parking to drivers displaying a Blue Badge only.

Decided: that The Inverclyde Council be recommended to make a Resolution under the Road Traffic Regulation (Scotland) Act 1984 in relation to a Traffic Regulation Order to restrict parking in parking bays to disabled drivers displaying a Blue Badge only and thereafter that it be remitted to the Head of Planning, Housing & Transportation and the Head of Legal & Administration to arrange for implementation of the Order.

555 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order - The A78 Trunk Road, Greenock Schools (Extension of Part Time 20 mph Speed Limit) Order 2008 555

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources recommending the making of a Traffic Regulation Order to extend the 20 mph restriction on Auchmead Road northwards to Ravenscraig Stadium and also to extend the 20 mph speed limit to Cumberland Road from the A78 to Westmorland Place and to short sections of the side roads on Burns Road, Westmorland Road and Stafford Road.

Decided: that The Inverclyde Council be recommended to make a Resolution under the Road Traffic Regulation (Scotland) Act 1984 in relation to a Traffic Regulation Order to extend the 20 mph restriction on Auchmead Road northwards to Ravenscraig Stadium and also to extend the 20 mph speed limit to Cumberland Road from the A78 to Westmorland Road and to short sections of the side roads at Burns Road, Westmorland

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Road and Stafford Road and thereafter that it be remitted to the Head of Planning, Housing & Transportation and the Head of Legal & Administration to arrange for implementation of the Order.

556 Delegated Powers: Authorisation of Officers

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection requesting the Committee to renew and update the delegated powers of the Head of Safer Communities with respect to the authorisation of officers.

Decided: that the Head of Safer Communities be granted delegated powers to authorise officers under the Public Health etc (Scotland) Act 2008.

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 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

557 Private Sector Housing Grant (PSHG) - Strategic Housing Investment 2008/09 - 2009/10

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection providing updated information in relation to Private Sector Housing Grant (PSHG) Investment in 2008/09 - 2009/10 and particular priorities and opportunities created by the removal of the rule of annuality which will allow any unspent funding in 2008/09 to be rolled over into 2009/10.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee endorse the recommendation not to invest Private Sector Housing Grant funding in either of the properties identified in paragraph 4.1 of the report; and

(2) that approval be given to the reallocation of the Private Sector Housing Grant funding in 2008/09 and in 2009/10 for enabling works in identified regeneration and renewal areas containing mainly private sector housing in significant disrepair, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.