

SAFE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 13 JANUARY 2009

Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee

Tuesday 13 January 2009 at 3.00 pm

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

Chair: Councillor Moran presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection, Ms M McCabe (for Chief Financial Officer), Head of Environmental Services, Head of Safer Communities, Mr F MacLeod (for Head of Planning & Housing), Mr W Rice, Housing Team, Mr J Douglas (for Head of Legal & Administration), Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs and Chief Internal Auditor.

Apologies: Councillor Ferguson.

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

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| 25 | Revenue Budget 2008/09 - Period 7 | 25 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection on the position of the Revenue Budget 2008/09 as at Period 7 (31 October 2008) which projected an underspend of £97,000.</p> <p>Noted</p> | |
| 26 | Trading Account Revenue Budget 2008/09 - Period 7 | 26 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection on the position of the Roads and Vehicle Maintenance Trading Accounts as at Period 7 (31 October 2008). The report advised that to 31 October, the Roads Trading Account projected an overspend of £42,000 and the Vehicle Maintenance Trading Account projected an overspend of £55,000.</p> <p>Noted</p> | |
| 27 | Capital Programme 2008/11 - Progress | 27 |
| | <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> | |
| 28 | Area Renewal Strategy Update | 28 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection advising of the expenditure on and progress of area renewal across Inverclyde for the period to the end of November 2008.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee note the progress made to date on Early Action Fund Grant-aided projects for the Area Renewal Strategy; and</p> <p>(2) that the Committee note the progress made to date on the Re-provisioning</p> | |

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Programme and on Area Renewal Projects by Registered Social Landlords operating within Inverclyde.

29 Private Sector Housing Grant: 2008/09 Update 29

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection (1) providing updated information on the current position of the 2008/09 Private Sector Housing Grant (PSHG) Budget and (2) seeking approval of the proposed 2009/10 budget following confirmation of 2009/10 PSHG funding from the Scottish Government.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the current position of the 2008/09 budget, services, grants and projects;
- (2) that the Committee note the virement within the overall PSHG budget to maximise spend within the current financial year; and
- (3) that approval be given to the proposed 2009/10 budget following confirmation of 2009/10 funding from the Scottish Government.

30 Inverclyde Local Plan: Annual Monitoring and Review of Housing Strategy (2007-08) 30

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection advising of progress made in implementing the housing strategy of the Local Plan and in particular reporting on trends in housing completions and the take-up and availability of housing land by market sector and location across the Inverclyde Housing Market Area for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the findings and interpretation of the current year's annual monitoring in accordance with the requirements of Local Plan Policy H7; and
- (2) that it be noted that there is sufficient capacity in the "Effective Land Supply" to meet estimated demand and therefore there is no requirement to increase the land supply through greenfield release.

31 New Local Authority Housing 31

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection (1) providing information on the recent Scottish Government announcement of the availability of an investment fund of £25M to encourage new Council house building and (2) advising of the principles and criteria which will be used to assess applications.

Decided:

- (1) that the invitation to submit a competitive funding bid be noted; and
- (2) that in the circumstances, it be agreed not to submit a bid on behalf of Inverclyde Council.

32 Support for Owners Fund 32

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection (1) on the new Support for Owners Fund for River Clyde Homes planned investment programme and (2) seeking approval of policy recommendations relating to eligible works for grant assistance and retention of the maximum approved expenditure limit (MAEL) for the operation of the fund.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in this matter as a Board Member of River Clyde

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

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note and welcome the purpose of the Support for Owners Fund;
- (2) that approval be given to the inclusion of lift replacement as eligible works;
- (3) that the Committee endorse the retention of the maximum approved expenditure limit of £20,000 but that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection to contact the Scottish Government with a view to ascertaining if any exceptions can be made to the application of the limit in particular circumstances and to advise Members accordingly; and
- (4) that it also be remitted to the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection to approach River Clyde Homes to explore any other possible options to assist owners in meeting the costs of their participation in the investment programme.

33 Inverclyde Green Network Study

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection requesting the Committee's approval to (1) adopt the Inverclyde Green Network Study, (2) support the implementation of the Foundation Actions and associated Action Plan and (3) utilise £8,000 of funding from the Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Stronger Budget to incorporate greenspace planning within the regeneration process.

Decided:

- (1) that agreement be given to adopt the Inverclyde Green Network Study as a strategic approach to the development and management of a high quality Green Network and to support the implementation of the Foundation Actions and associated Action Plan;
- (2) that approval be given to the allocation of £8,000 from the Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Stronger Budget to incorporate greenspace provision within the regeneration process; and
- (3) that subject to securing agreement on matched funding from the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership and the Scottish Government Housing Investment Division, permission be granted to seek competitive tenders for the production of a masterplanning framework and authority be delegated to the Head of Planning & Housing to accept the best value tender return.

34 Scottish Ferries Review

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection providing the Committee with an update on the Scottish Ferries Review.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the Scottish Ferries Review as set out in appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection to convey to the Scottish Government, through COSLA, the Committee's view that there should be Elected Member representation on the Council Sub-Group; and
- (3) that in the meantime, the Head of Environmental Services continue to represent Inverclyde Council on the Council Sub-Group and to report to the Committee as appropriate.

35 Delegated Powers: Service of Closing Orders under Housing (Scotland) Act 1987

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection seeking approval to delegate powers to the him to serve Closing Orders under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 on properties below the tolerable standard in the Clune Park area, Port Glasgow.

Decided: that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection to serve Closing Orders under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 on privately owned flats below the tolerable standard in the Clune Park area, Port Glasgow.

36 Community Safety Partnership Resident Survey 2008 36

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection on the results of the Community Safety Partnership Resident Survey for 2008.

Noted

37 Review of School Crossing Patrol Service 37

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection advising of the results of recent reviews of the Council's school crossing patrol sites including those sites which have been assessed as no longer required.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the results of the assessment and the consultation exercise;

(2) that agreement be given to retain the school crossing patrol sites detailed in the report which have been risk assessed as not required using the approved criteria; and

(3) that approval be given to an amended set of criteria as follows:

(a) established sites will remain in place except where there is a significant change in circumstances (such as the provision of a light controlled crossing or closure of a school); and

(b) where consideration is given to establishing a new site, this will be assessed against the RoSPA approved criteria in force at that time.

38 Resignation of Councillor Dorrian as Vice-Convenor 38

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection requesting the Committee to consider changes required as a result of Councillor Dorrian's resignation as Vice-Convenor of the Committee and also other matters arising from the changes agreed by the Council on 18 December 2008.

Decided:

(1) that the new Vice-Convenor, Councillor Wilson, adopt the role of the previous Vice-Convenor in relation to his Convenership of the Sustainability Sub-Committee and the Officer/Member Working Group for the Green Charter; and

(2) that Councillor Ahlfeld be appointed to the Sustainability Sub-Committee in place of Councillor McCallum.

Councillor McCabe left the meeting at this juncture.

The Convenor being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration to allow the Committee to be advised of the review of the

recent flooding at the earliest opportunity. This was unanimously agreed in terms of the relevant Standing Order.

39 Flooding - 19 December 2008

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection advising the Committee of the outcome of the review of the flooding which had taken place on 19 December 2008.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that a further report be submitted to the May 2009 meeting of the Committee on the Flood Plan, including the associated action plan, following consultation with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Water and the Scottish Government and that the report also include clarification of the resource implications and any other possible sources of funding; and
- (3) that the Committee's thanks be conveyed to all staff involved in the flood alleviation works.

Councillor Grieve left the meeting at this juncture.

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

40 Recyclate Markets

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection advising the Committee of the downturn in the recyclate markets and the effect which this may have on the Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection to keep the Committee apprised of any significant changes affecting the sale of recyclable materials.