

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 31 MARCH 2009**

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**Policy & Resources Committee**

**Tuesday 31 March 2009 at 3.00 pm**

**Present:** Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Fyfe, McCabe, McIlwee, Dorrian (for McKenzie), MacLeod, Moran and Wilson.

**Chair:** Councillor McCabe presided.

**In attendance:** Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education & Social Care, Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection, Corporate Director Improvement & Performance, Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources, Chief Financial Officer, Mr F Jarvie (for Head of Legal & Administration), Head of Organisational Development & Human Resources, Head of ICT & Business Transformation, Head of Performance Management & Procurement, Head of Safer Communities and Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs.

**Apologies:** Councillors Ferguson and McKenzie.

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

**224 Revenue Budget 2008/09 - Period 10**

**224**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Director Improvement & Performance and Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources on the position of the 2008/09 Revenue Budget as at Period 10 (31 January 2009) which showed a projected underspend of £376,000.

(Councillor Blair entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

**Decided:**

- (1) that the current projected underspend of £376,000 for 2008/09, as at 31 January 2009, be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the virement of £1,000 in respect of transfer of budget from Legal & Administration professional fees detailed in paragraph 8.1 and appendix 4 of the report.

**225 General Fund Revenue Budget 2008/09 - Period 10**

**225**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2008/09 as at Period 10 (31 January 2009) and (2) providing an update on the position of the General Fund Reserve and Designated Earmarked Reserves.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the current position of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2008/09 be noted;
- (2) that the position in respect of the General Fund Reserve and the associated Earmarked Reserves be noted; and
- (3) that it be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to determine the number and value of the Earmarked Reserves as part of the year end accounts process.

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- 226 Capital Programme 2008/11 226**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the current position of the three year Capital Programme 2008/11.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the current position of the 2008/11 Capital Programme be noted;
  - (2) that it be agreed to accelerate the projects detailed in section 2.4 of the report from 2010/11 to 2009/10 in order that the Council can receive £1.343M Capital Acceleration Grant from the Government; and
  - (3) that approval be given to the removal of the land decontamination project and budget from the 2008/11 Capital Programme.
- 227 Significant Trading Operations - 2009/10 227**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval with regard to the Significant Trading Operations to be operated by the Council for the financial year 2009/10.
- Decided:**
- (1) that approval be given to the continued designation of Building Services, Roads Maintenance and Vehicle Management as Significant Trading Operations for the financial year 2009/10; and
  - (2) that it be noted the Chief Executive will submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee following a fundamental review of the Council's arrangements for identifying and reviewing Significant Trading Operations.
- 228 Improvement and Performance Capital Programme 2008/09 - 2010/11 - Progress 228**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance and the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the status of the projects forming the Improvement and Performance Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.
- Noted**
- 229 Corporate Performance Report - January/February 2009 229**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance appending the Corporate Performance Report for January/February 2009 which complements existing arrangements for Directorate Performance Reporting to the Committee and is a key component of the Council's overall Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee endorse the performance information contained in the Corporate Performance Report; and
  - (2) that it be noted that further reports on Corporate Performance will be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.
- 230 Improvement and Performance Directorate Performance Report 230**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance advising of (1) progress made by the Improvement and Performance Directorate in achieving its key objectives as set out in its Directorate Plan for 2008/11 and (2)

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performance in relation to key performance indicators.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee endorse the performance information contained in the report;
- (2) that it be noted that further reports on the performance of the Improvement and Performance Directorate will be submitted to future meetings of the Committee; and
- (3) that Members be requested to identify any further performance information for inclusion in the report to the next meeting of the Committee.

**231 Regeneration and Resources Directorate Performance Report**

**231**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources advising of (1) progress made by the Regeneration and Resources Directorate in achieving its key objectives as set out in its Directorate Plan and (2) how they have contributed to the achievement of key corporate priorities.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the performance information contained in the report be endorsed;
- (2) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources to submit a report on absence management to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (3) that the Committee's congratulations be conveyed to those involved in achieving awards in respect of the Healthy Working Lives Scheme.

**232 Modernisation and Efficiency Programme - Progress Report**

**232**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance on the progress made in implementing the Council's Modernisation and Efficiency Programme.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the good progress being made with the implementation of the Council's Modernisation and Efficiency Programme;
- (2) that the revised funding profile for the Modernisation and Efficiency Programme as detailed in appendix 2 to the report be approved;
- (3) that a further report on progress of phase 2 of the Modernisation and Efficiency programme be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (4) that the utilisation of the additional £1M allocated from reserves be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

**233 Treasury Management - Strategy 2009/10**

**233**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for (1) the Treasury Management Strategy for 2009/10 and (2) the Council's Prudential Indicators for the next three years.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators outlined in the report; and
- (2) that approval be given to the following addition to the Council's Counterparty Criteria: "Where a UK bank has been nationalised or has received substantial support from the UK Government (involving more than 50% ownership) then the maximum investment will be £15 million and the maximum period for an investment will be 364 days".

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- 234 Audit Scotland Report on Overview of the Local Authority Audits 2008 234**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance (1) on the publication of the Overview Report of the Local Authority Audits for 2008 by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission and (2) summarising the key messages for local authorities identified in the report.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the Overview Report of the Local Authority Audits for 2008; and
- (2) that officers ensure that the future challenges identified in paragraph 5 of the Overview Report are addressed through the relevant elements of the Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework.
- 235 InForm - A Corporate Comments, Compliments and Complaints Framework for Inverclyde Council 235**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance providing an update on the development and implementation of InForm - a Corporate Comments, Compliments and Complaints Framework for the Council, a copy of which was appended to the report.
- Decided:**
- (1) that it be agreed to implement InForm across all services from 1 April 2009; and
- (2) that monitoring information generated from InForm be reported to the Committee on a regular basis.
- 236 Corporate Security Contract 236**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection seeking authority to issue a tender for a new corporate contract for the provision of security services.
- Decided:**
- (1) that, in terms of paragraph 26.5 of the Council's Financial Regulations, the Head of Environmental Services be authorised to enter into a tendering process in respect of security services;
- (2) that it be noted the tendering exercise will be subject to the European Procurement regime; and
- (3) that authority be delegated to the Head of Environmental Services to take all necessary steps to progress the tender, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts and the appropriate Regulations.
- 237 Area Renewal Fund/Play Areas Fund 237**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection and the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources setting out proposals for the use and monitoring of the Area Renewal Fund and the Play Areas Fund.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Area Renewal Fund be overseen by the Regeneration Committee with proposals for expenditure being submitted formally by the Corporate Area Renewal Group through the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources; and
- (2) that the Play Areas Fund be overseen by the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee with proposals for expenditure being submitted formally by the Head of Environmental Services through the Corporate Director Environment & Community

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Protection.

**238 Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership - Review of Joint Working and Shared Services 238**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance (1) on the recent decision by the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership to commission a review of joint working and shared services and (2) outlining the current position of the Council with regard to joint working and shared services and proposing a number of key issues to be raised during the consultation which will be undertaken as part of the review.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Council engage positively with the review;
- (2) that agreement be given to the position outlined in the report for the Council with regard to the future development of joint working and shared services;
- (3) that it be agreed the position outlined in the report be communicated to Sir John Arbuthnott and the other seven authorities comprising the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership; and
- (4) that further updates on progress with the review be submitted to the Committee when appropriate.

**239 Provost's Ball 239**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on the outcome of the Provost's Ball 2008.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the success of the Provost's Ball and agree to adopt the same format in the future; and
- (2) that it be remitted to the Chief Executive to refer the matter to the Provost's Forum to discuss the arrangements and date for the next Provost's Ball.

**240 Voluntary Severance - Update Report 240**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development & Human Resources (1) updating the Committee on those employees released through voluntary severance and (2) seeking approval to extend the authority delegated to the Chief Executive to release employees as part of the voluntary severance trawl or budget proposals.

There was circulated appendix to the report providing details of the number of employees released and relative financial information.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the current position in respect of employees who have been released under the delegated authority granted to the Chief Executive as set out in the appendix to the report;
- (2) that the current delegated authority granted to the Chief Executive be extended until 26 May 2009; and
- (3) that a report on the position in respect of voluntary severance and any employees who may have been released under the authority delegated to the Chief Executive be submitted to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 26 May 2009.

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**241 Responding to the Economic Downturn 241**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance (1) outlining the potential risks for the Council of the current economic downturn at corporate and service level and (2) suggesting an approach to identify appropriate actions which can be taken to mitigate these risks.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the potential risks for the Council of the current economic downturn at corporate and service levels;
- (2) that the action already undertaken through the 2009/2011 budget and as a result of the report to the Regeneration Committee in January 2009 be noted;
- (3) that it be agreed that an action plan be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee focusing on maintaining key investment programmes and services in the medium term, reviewing governance frameworks, policies and delivery arrangements where appropriate and ensuring the Council is able to manage effectively through the economic downturn and prepare for the recovery;
- (4) that the extent of ongoing activity by Economic and Social Regeneration to support local businesses as outlined in section 4.17 of the report be noted; and
- (5) that the report be remitted to the next meeting of the Inverclyde Alliance Board.

**242 Target Operating Model - Implementation Plan 242**

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

**243 Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive 243**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive since the last ordinary meeting of the Committee relative to (1) extension to the delegated authority to the Chief Executive in respect of the release of employees through the Council's Voluntary Severance Scheme and (2) the issue of tender documents for the Inverclyde Interpretation Strategy to specialist consultants not on an approved list.

**Noted****244 Sports Pitches Action Plan Update - George Road, Gourock: Remit from Regeneration Committee 244**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Regeneration Committee of 12 March 2009 requesting the Committee to approve the financial implications in respect of the acceleration into 2009/10 of a second 3G Fieldturf Pitch at George Road, Gourock to be funded by the Scottish Government's Capital Acceleration Grant.

**Decided:** that the Committee approve the financial implications in respect of the acceleration into 2009/10 of a second 3G Fieldturf Pitch at George Road, Gourock to be funded by the Scottish Government's Capital Acceleration Grant.

**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 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:-**

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Item	Paragraphs(s)	
<b>Appendix 1 relative to Agenda Item 17 (Voluntary Severance - Update Report)</b>	1	
<b>Appendix 1 relative to Agenda Item 13 (Corporate Security Contract)</b>	6 and 8	
<b>Appendix 2 relative to Agenda Item 20 (Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive)</b>	6	
<b>Relocation of Greenock Arts Guild</b>	6 and 9	
<b>245 Appendix 1 relative to Agenda Item 17 (Voluntary Severance - Update Report)</b>		<b>245</b>
<p>There was submitted Appendix 1 relative to agenda item 17 (Voluntary Severance - Update Report) providing details of the number of employees released and relative financial information.  <b>Noted</b></p>		
<b>246 Appendix 1 relative to Agenda Item 13 (Corporate Security Contract)</b>		<b>246</b>
<p>There was submitted Appendix 1 relative to agenda item 13 (Corporate Security Contract) providing details of expenditure on corporate security during 2007/08.  <b>Noted</b></p>		
<b>247 Appendix 2 relative to Agenda Item 20 (Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive)</b>		<b>247</b>
<p>There was submitted Appendix 2 relative to agenda item 20 on the invitation of tenders for the Inverclyde Interpretation Strategy from specialist consultants not on an approved list.  <b>Noted</b></p>		
<b>248 Relocation of Greenock Arts Guild</b>		<b>248</b>
<p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration &amp; Resources on (1) the relocation of Greenock Arts Guild from Campbell Street, Greenock to East India Harbour and (2) the funding package to support the relocation and construction of a new theatre complex. The Committee agreed to the action recommended, all as detailed in the appendix.</p>		