

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 16 JUNE 2009

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 16 June 2009 at 4 pm

Present: Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Fyfe, McCabe, McKenzie, Moran and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, 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 Performance Management & Procurement, Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs, Mr R Graham (for Head of Environmental Services) and Physical Investment Services Manager.

Apologies: Councillor MacLeod.

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

438 IPF Review of Financial Management and Capacity 438

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer advising of the main areas for improvement and action identified by the Institute of Public Finance (IPF) arising from the review of financial management and capacity within Inverclyde Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee give its endorsement to the recommended broad areas for improvement actions and the content of the Executive Summary document appended to the report; and
- (2) that it be noted that a detailed, resourced and timelined improvement plan will be submitted to the Committee in September 2009.

439 Review of Financial Strategy 2009/10 to 2016/17 439

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval of the latest version of the Council's Financial Strategy which has been reviewed and amended in line with the process agreed in April 2008.

Decided:

- (1) that the revised Financial Strategy appended to the report be approved;
- (2) that the Committee note the projected significant budget reductions which the Council will face from 2011/12 onwards; and
- (3) that it be noted that a further review of the Financial Strategy will be reported in December 2009 to inform the 2010/12 budget process.

440 Vehicle, Plant and Equipment Efficiency Review 440

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection on the outcome of the Vehicle, Plant and Equipment Efficiency Review.

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Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the Vehicle, Plant and Equipment Efficiency Review;
- (2) that the Committee approve the Vehicle, Plant and Equipment Replacement Policy of 5 and 7 year cycles, subject to the vehicle/plant category;
- (3) that the Committee approve the Fleet Management System Business Case including procurement;
- (4) that approval in principle be given to the procurement of a Vehicle Tracking System subject to the preparation of a Business Case;
- (5) that approval be given to the proposed funding model including investment of £7M between 2009 and 2014 for the Vehicle, Plant and Equipment Replacement Programme and for the funding of a Cyclical Replacement Programme thereafter;
- (6) that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to vary the replacement cycle should there be a sound financial or operational need to do so and provided costs can be contained in the approved funding model;
- (7) that approval be given, subject to the limitations of Scotland Excel's contracts, to the use of other Local Government Frameworks contracts for the procurement of vehicle, plant and equipment, provided Best Value can be demonstrated; and
- (8) that approval be given to the procurement of nearly new or used vehicles, plant and equipment where it is demonstrated that there are significant financial advantages to the Council with minimal risk to quality and warranty.

441 Procurement Scotland - National Frameworks**441**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance requesting the Committee to approve participation in the collaborative National Frameworks established by Procurement Scotland on behalf of all Scottish Public Bodies in relation to Category A commodities.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the Council's participation in the collaborative National Frameworks established by Procurement Scotland on behalf of all Scottish Public Bodies in relation to Category A commodities;
- (2) that agreement be given to suspend Standing Orders 5.6 and 5.7 of the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts;
- (3) that authority be granted to the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance to authorise the Head of Legal & Administration to enter into the National Frameworks established by Procurement Scotland where the Council's anticipated spend under the contract is below £250,000, provided the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance is satisfied that the contract represents Best Value to the Council; and
- (4) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Administration, after consultation with relevant officers, in terms of Standing Order 10.2(ii) to enter into those National Frameworks referred to in paragraph 2.4 of the report on behalf of the Council where the anticipated contract value exceeds £250,000, provided the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance is satisfied that the contract represents Best Value to the Council.

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	Paragraph(s)
Former Highholm Primary School, Port Glasgow: Demolition and Decant	8
River Clyde Homes: Proposed Transfer of Land at Oronsay Avenue, Port Glasgow	6, 8 & 9
Additional Item: Approval to Use Specialist Consultants - Actuarial Services	6
Additional Item: Voluntary Severance	1

442 Former Highholm Primary School, Port Glasgow: Demolition and Decant**442**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources seeking the Committee's approval (1) to declare the former Highholm Primary School, Port Glasgow as surplus to requirements, (2) to obtain delegated authority to deal with the necessary decant of Council services to, possibly, interim and then permanent locations and (3) to demolish the building in preparation for asset utilisation in the future.

Decided:

- (1) that the former Highholm Primary School, Port Glasgow be declared by the Council as surplus to requirements;
- (2) that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources to issue and obtain demolition quotes and arrange for demolition as soon as practicable so that the site may be made safe and that the demolition costs be added to the 2009/11 Capital Programme;
- (3) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources to include the site in the Disposals Programme and also to investigate the future of the site within the broader context of the regeneration of Port Glasgow Town Centre;
- (4) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources to deal with the interim and thereafter permanent relocation of the necessary staff and that it be delegated to him to implement these proposals after due consultation and consideration with and by the Head of Legal & Administration and the Chief Financial Officer; and
- (5) that a report on the outcome of the above arrangements, including the options for the site, be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

443 River Clyde Homes: Proposed Transfer of Land at Oronsay Avenue, Port Glasgow**443**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources requesting the Council to agree to the transfer of an area of ground at Oronsay Avenue, Port Glasgow to River Clyde Homes for the purposes of supplementing their house building and area renewal plans in Port Glasgow.

Decided: that the Council agree to the transfer of the area of ground at Oronsay Avenue, Port Glasgow amounting to 0.396 hectares, shown outlined and hatched on the plan attached to the report to River Clyde Homes in order to support the area renewal proposals in Port Glasgow in return for any decontamination costs and that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources to conclude matters accordingly.

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The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Chief Financial Officer was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to consider the request at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.

444 Approval to Use Specialist Consultants - Actuarial Services**444**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval to invite specialist consultants to tender for Actuarial Services to review the Insurance Fund operated by the Council.

Decided: that approval be given to invite tenders from the consultants listed in the report.

The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Head of Organisational Development & Human Resources was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to be advised of the current position of employees released through voluntary severance at the earliest opportunity and to approve further action in this regard. This was agreed unanimously.

445 Voluntary Severance**445**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development & Human Resources (1) providing an update to the Committee in respect of employees who have been released through Voluntary Severance and (2) requesting that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to release employees up to 22 September 2009.

Decided:

(1) that agreement be given to the release of the employees as detailed in appendix 1 to the report;

(2) that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to release employees as part of the budget process until the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee on 22 September 2009; and

(3) that a further report be submitted to the Committee on 22 September advising of all employees who have been granted release by the Chief Executive.