

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 21 SEPTEMBER 2010

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 21 September 2010 at 3 pm

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

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Community Health & Care Partnership, Corporate Director Education & Communities, Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources, Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment, Ms J Buchanan (for Chief Financial Officer), Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance, Head of Customer Service & Business Transformation, Head of Property Assets & Facilities Management, Revenues & Benefits Manager, Legal Services Manager (Procurement & Administration) and Corporate Communications Manager.

Prior to commencement of business, Councillor McCabe referred to the recent death of Mr Ian Wilson, former Town Chamberlain of Greenock Corporation and the first Chief Executive of Inverclyde District Council. Both Councillor McCabe and Councillor Blair paid tribute to Mr Wilson's contribution to local government in the area and the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, asked that his condolences be extended to Mr Wilson's family.

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

530 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 530

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor MacLeod. Councillors Blair, Clocherty, McKenzie and Nelson declared interests in agenda item 3 (General Fund Revenue Budget 2010/11 - Period 4).

531 Policy & Resources Committee 2010/11 Revenue Budget - Period 4 531

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources, Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment and Chief Financial Officer on (1) the 2009/10 out-turn and (2) the 2010/11 Revenue Budget position for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 4 (31 July 2010) which projected, excluding Earmarked Reserves, an underspend of £361,000.

Decided: that the Committee note the out-turn for 2009/10 and the current projected underspend for 2010/11 of £361,000 as at 31 July 2010.

532 General Fund Revenue Budget 2010/11 - Period 4 532

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the 2010/11 General Fund Revenue Budget as at 31 July 2010 and (2) providing an update in respect of Earmarked Reserves, the General Fund Reserve and the Savings Workstreams.

There was circulated to the Committee appendix 6 to the report providing information on

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 21 SEPTEMBER 2010

the Savings Workstreams.

Councillors Blair, Clocherty, McKenzie and Nelson declared non-financial interests in the item (relating to the Support for Owners Fund) as Members of the Board of 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.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the information contained in appendices 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the report;
- (2) that the virement request totalling £203,000 detailed in appendix 4 be approved; and
- (3) that it be noted that the full impact of the previously approved mid year savings will be reflected in the next report to the Committee.

533 Capital Programme 2010/14

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the current position of the 2010/14 Capital Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2010/14 Capital Programme be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that Officers will develop proposals as part of the budget to be considered in February 2011 for the eventuality that Government Capital Support is reduced even further as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

534 Organisational Improvement & Resources Capital Programme 2010/11 - 2013/14 - Progress Report

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the status of the projects forming the Organisational Improvement & Resources Capital Programme 2010/11 - 2013/14 and (2) highlighting the actual spend as at 31 July 2010.

Noted

535 Debt Recovery Performance 2009/10

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer advising of the Council's debt recovery performance during 2009/10 and of future plans in this regard.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the Council's good performance in the area of debt recovery in 2009/10; and
- (2) that it be agreed to take up the option of extending the current arrangement with Walker Love & Co, the Council's debt partners, for a further year to 31 March 2012.

536 Transformation Programme (Implementation of the Operating Model) - Progress Report

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources providing an update on progress with the implementation of the Operating Model.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the positive progress being made with the development

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 21 SEPTEMBER 2010

and delivery of Phase 2 of the Operating Model; and

(2) that the funding position of the Operating Model as detailed in appendices 2 and 3 of the report be noted.

537 Clyde Valley Review - Progress Report

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources providing an update on progress with the workstreams identified through the Clyde Valley Review.

Decided:

(1) that the progress made with the workstreams identified through the Clyde Valley Review be noted; and

(2) that it be agreed that further reports on progress be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Councillor Nelson left the meeting at this juncture.

538 Responding to the Economic Downturn - Progress Report

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources providing an update on how the Council is seeking to manage the impact of the economic downturn at a corporate and service level.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee approve the progress made with regard to the action plan set out in appendix 1 to the report; and

(2) that the Committee note the current position with regard to the indicators set out in appendix 2 which help assess the impact of the economic downturn on the Council and the area.

539 Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework - Performance Reports

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources appending a number of performance reports including (a) a public performance report which highlights progress towards the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan, (b) performance in relation to statutory and key performance indicators and (c) progress made on the Organisational Improvement Plan workstreams.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the progress reports appended to the report;

(2) that it be agreed that the public performance report be published subject to validation of the performance indicators by Audit Scotland;

(3) that it be agreed that the statutory performance indicators be published subject to validation by Audit Scotland; and

(4) that it be agreed that a refreshed Organisational Improvement Plan be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

540 Inverclyde Single Outcome Agreement Annual Report 2009/10

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive appending the draft version of the Inverclyde Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Annual Report 2009/10.

The Committee heard a presentation by the Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources on the SOA Report, including its strategic context, key achievements and proposals for future action.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 21 SEPTEMBER 2010

Decided: that the Committee note the progress which has been made in the Single Outcome Agreement Annual Report 2009/10.

541 Results from Fifth Citizens' Panel Survey

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources (1) providing an overview of the results from the fifth Citizens' Panel Survey which focused on Quality of Life issues and (2) giving details of how these results compare with those of the first Citizens' Panel Quality of Life Survey conducted in December 2007.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed that the SOA Outcome Delivery Groups, Organisational Improvement Plan Reference Groups and, where appropriate, Services take the necessary action to address the issues arising from the Citizens' Panel Survey.

542 Comet Bicentenary Event in 2012

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Communities (1) informing the Committee that the bicentenary of the paddle steamer (PS) Comet will be in 2012, (2) advising of the progress made by the multi-agency group established to celebrate the bicentenary of the launch of Henry Bell's Comet in 2012 and (3) requesting the Committee to determine whether the Council should mark the bicentenary.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the history of previous Comet ship celebrations as detailed in appendices 1-3 of the report;
- (2) that the progress made by the Comet Bicentennial Group be noted;
- (3) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Education & Communities to update the Committee on the progress of the Comet Bicentennial Group on a quarterly basis; and
- (4) that it be agreed that £10,000 be provided from the Common Good Fund to mark the occasion.

543 Proposed Welfare Reforms and Response to Consultation

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources informing the Committee of measures proposed by the UK Government to reform Housing and Council Tax Benefit and the likely impact on the Council and the communities of Inverclyde.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the impact which the proposed measures will have on Inverclyde Council in terms initially of communications with customers, landlords, staff training and IT system changes;
- (2) that the Committee acknowledge the wider impact on the community resulting from reduced levels of Housing Benefit income for claimants, the management of rent arrears by housing associations and private sector landlords and the pressures on Council services such as debt management, homelessness and social care as well as the profitability and subsequent availability of property provided by private landlords and the pressures which this may have on housing association stock; and
- (3) that it be noted that a corporate response will be made to the consultation paper "21st Century Welfare".

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 21 SEPTEMBER 2010

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- 544 Efficiency Reviews - Facilities Management 544**
- It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda and would be the subject of a report to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 545 Vehicle and Plant Replacement Programme - Request to Advertise on National Advertising Portal 545**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services seeking approval, in terms of Standing Order 6.1 of the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts, to advertise a number of contracts which are part of the Council's Vehicle Replacement Programme on the national advertising portal established by Procurement Scotland, subject to the suspension of Standing Order 5 of the Standing Orders relating to Contracts.
- Decided:** that subject to the suspension of Standing Order 5 of the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts, approval be given to advertise the various contracts detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report on the national advertising portal.
- 546 Pay Award for Craft Operatives and Employees covered by the Single Status Agreement 546**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance requesting the Committee to agree the decision made by COSLA Council Leaders to impose a three year pay deal for craft operatives and employees who are covered by the Single Status Agreement.
- Decided:** that agreement be given to implement the three year pay award for craft operatives and employees covered by the Single Status Agreement as detailed in Personnel Services Circulars 03/10 and 04/10 appended to the report.
- 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 paragraphs 6 and 8 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**
- 547 Procurement of Citizens' Panel and Depopulation Baseline Position Statement 547**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources seeking approval to issue tenders to contractors not on the Standing Restricted List for (a) the procurement of Citizens' Panel Surveys and (b) a Depopulation Baseline Position Statement.
- Decided:** that approval be given for the issue of tenders for (a) Citizens' Panel Surveys and (b) a Depopulation Baseline Position Statement to the various contractors detailed in the report and delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources in consultation with the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to accept and award the tenders as appropriate.
- 548 Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive 548**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive (1) to issue tenders to

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 21 SEPTEMBER 2010

contractors not on the Standing Restricted List for the Maintenance of Fire Fighting Equipment Term Contract 2010/12 and (2) to approve a one year contract for the supply of water and waste water.

Noted

549 Office Rationalisation**549**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment and Chief Financial Officer seeking authority to progress a range of proposals in respect of office rationalisation works following further option appraisal work in the light of responses received from partner organisations and future financial challenges.

(Councillor Wilson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that authority be given to progress and implement option 2 involving the conversion of the central library and other properties for office accommodation;
- (2) that approval be given to the revisions to the works to Greenock Municipal Buildings as detailed in paragraph 5.7 of the report;
- (3) that approval be given to the issue of tenders for (a) Greenock Municipal Buildings - Customer Service Centre Advance Works and (b) Greenock Municipal Buildings - Customer Service Centre and delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to accept the lowest or most economically advantageous tender in each case in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts, Financial Regulations (26.5) and European Procurement Directives;
- (4) that it be agreed that the ownership of the former St Laurence's Primary School Building be returned to Education Services' portfolio;
- (5) that Wellington Academy be declared surplus to requirements and that a further report be submitted relating to the future use of the site; and
- (6) that it be noted that a strategy will be developed for the future use of redundant school sites and submitted for consideration in due course.