

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL - 14 DECEMBER 2010

The Inverclyde Council

Tuesday 14 December 2010 at 4.00 pm

Present: Provost McCormick, Councillors Ahlfeld, Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Dorrian, Fyfe, Loughran, McCabe, McCallum, McIlwee, McKenzie, Moran, Nelson, Osborne, White and Wilson.

Chair: Provost McCormick presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Community Health & Care Partnership, Corporate Director Education & Communities, Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources, Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment, Chief Financial Officer, Ms L Bairden (Accountancy Manager), Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance, Head of Regeneration & Planning, Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Legal Services Manager (Procurement & Administration) and Corporate Communications Manager.

Present also: Mr P Tait, Ms E Boyd, Mr L Slavin and Mr D Young (Audit Scotland).

750 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Grieve, MacLeod and Rebecchi.

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

751 Annual Report to Members and the Controller of Audit 2009/2010

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Organisational Improvement & Resources appending Audit Scotland's Annual Report to Members and the Controller of Audit 2009/2010.

Mr Tait spoke to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council endorse the contents of the Annual Report to Members and the Controller of Audit 2009/2010 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) that the report be submitted to the Audit Committee for consideration of those issues which fall within that Committee's remit; and
- (3) that it be remitted to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services and the Chief Internal Auditor to submit a report on the residual ethical risks resulting from current statutory provisions and possible responses to mitigate the residual risks in due course.

752 Council's Financial Strategy 2010/11 - 2017/18

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval of a revised Financial Strategy following announcements by the Westminster and Scottish Governments in respect of future years budgets.

Decided: that the revised Financial Strategy for 2010/11 to 2017/18 appended to the report be approved.

753 Inverclyde Council's 2011/13 Revenue Budget

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the 2011/13 budget and (2) seeking decisions on a number of matters.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council note the position in respect of the Scottish budget and the indicative settlement for the Council;
- (2) that the terms of the joint letter from COSLA and the Scottish Government regarding the 2011/12 Budget Grant Settlement appended to the report be noted and that, in the light of the potential financial penalty for not agreeing to the conditions, the Council Leader on behalf of the Council accept the conditions but on the basis of the Council's conditions as set out in the note circulated separately to Elected Members;
- (3) that the proposals from the Corporate Management Team contained in Appendix 4 totalling £2.409M be approved;
- (4) that the Council approve the budgetary pressures identified by the Corporate Management Team and agree in principle to the creation of the contingency for unforeseen pressures/further reductions in grant in 2012/13, the size of which will be approved by the Council at the budget meeting in February 2011;
- (5) that authority be delegated to the representatives of the various Joint Boards to agree requisitions provided that they represent a reduction in Council contribution of at least the levels outlined in Section 11 of the report; and
- (6) that the need to remove approximately £3M from the 2011/14 Capital Programme as part of the overall budget decision in February 2011 be noted.

754 Severance: Additional Benefits Awarded to Employees under the Council's Severance Scheme at the Discretion of the Council

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, HR & Performance proposing amendments to the additional benefits awarded to employees at the Council's discretion as part of the Voluntary Severance Scheme.

Decided:

- (1) that the added years benefits awarded to employees who leave under the Council's Severance Scheme be reduced from a maximum of ten added years for Efficiency and a maximum of six and two thirds added years for Redundancy to a maximum of six added years with effect from 1 June 2011 for either Efficiency or Redundancy;
- (2) that the redundancy payment awarded to employees who are under 50 years of age or over 50 years of age and not in the Pension Scheme be increased from 66 weeks to 90 weeks, as set out in appendices 3 and 4 to the report, for the period to 31 December 2011, reverting back to 66 weeks on 1 January 2012, as set out in appendices 1 and 2;
- (3) that the savings as set out in paragraph 5.4 and as detailed in appendix 5 be approved;
- (4) that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to award the additional redundancy payment to employees under exceptional circumstances as outlined in paragraph 5.5 of the report; and
- (5) that a further report be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee by April 2011 to include proposals for a further review which may include further changes to the number of added years awarded to employees, the introduction of a selection criteria matrix to be used when employees require to be identified as being displaced from their job with the Council and an updated Severance Policy to include the proposed changes.

755 Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership (CHCP) - Administrative Arrangements

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment (1) outlining changes required to the Council's Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration to facilitate the operation of the Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership (CHCP), (2) proposing that the CHCP Sub-Committee sits in place of the Health & Social Care Committee on four of five of its scheduled meetings in each cycle of meetings and (3) presenting proposed Standing Orders to govern the conduct of meetings of the CHCP Sub-Committee.

Decided: that approval be given to (i) the alterations to the Council's Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, (ii) the proposal that the CHCP Sub-Committee sits in place of the Health & Social Care Committee on four of five of its scheduled meetings in each cycle of meetings and (iii) the proposed Standing Orders detailed in appendix 2 as the Standing Orders to govern the conduct of meetings of the CHCP Sub-Committee.

The Provost being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow a tender to be accepted at the earliest opportunity if agreed by the Council. This was agreed unanimously.

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 on the grounds that consideration of the following item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 and 8 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

756 Development of a Multi-Use Games Area at Birkmyre Park, Kilmacolm

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment requesting the Council, as Trustees of the Birkmyre Park, to approve the appointment of specialist contractors for the development of the multi-use games area on an area of land in Birkmyre Park and setting out for consideration the tenders received.

Decided: that the Council, as Trustees of the Birkmyre Park, agree to the appointment of The Malcolm Group Ltd to carry out the development of the Birkmyre Park Multi-Use Games Area in the sum of £105,546.83 excluding VAT and to design fees being incurred.