

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 18 AUGUST 2011

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 18 August 2011 at 4 pm

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

Chair: Provost McCormick presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Community Health & Care Partnership, Corporate Director Education & Communities, Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Managing Solicitor (Conveyancing & Planning) and Mr M Bingham (Corporate Communications & Public Affairs).

477 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

477

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

No declarations of interest were intimated.

478 Labour Group Leadership – Resignation of Councillor McKenzie

478

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment (1) advising that Councillor McKenzie had resigned as Leader of the Council and of the Labour Group of Inverclyde Council and (2) requesting that the Council make appropriate appointments in the light of Councillor McKenzie's resignation.

During the course of discussion on this item, Members of the Council extended their congratulations and best wishes to Councillor McKenzie following his recent election as MP for Inverclyde.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that Councillor McKenzie had intimated his resignation as Leader of the Council and of the Labour Group of Inverclyde Council;
- (2) that Councillor McCabe be appointed Leader of the Council;
- (3) that Councillor McCabe be appointed Convener of the Policy & Resources Committee and of the Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee;
- (4) that Councillor McCabe be appointed as Member and Chair of the Inverclyde Alliance Board, in place of Councillor McKenzie;
- (5) that Councillor McCabe be appointed to the CoSLA Convention as Council Leader;
- (6) that Councillor McCabe be appointed to the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership in place of Councillor McKenzie; and
- (7) that Councillor Clocherty be appointed Vice-Convener of the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee in place of Councillor McKenzie.

479 River Clyde Homes Board – Resignation of Councillor Blair

479

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment requesting the Council to appoint a representative to serve on the Board of River Clyde

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Homes (RCH) following the resignation of Councillor Blair.

Decided:

- (1) that Councillor Fyfe be appointed to serve on the Board of River Clyde Homes in place of Councillor Blair; and
- (2) that it be remitted to the Chief Executive to clarify RCH's understanding of the ability of Inverclyde Council Members to represent and advocate the interests of their constituents when undertaking the role of a RCH Board Member.

The Provost being of the opinion that the undernoted item was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Council to consider the filling of the vacancy on Strathclyde Police Authority at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.

480 Strathclyde Police Authority – Resignation of Councillor Brooks

480

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment advising of the resignation of Councillor Brooks from Strathclyde Police Authority.

Decided:

- (1) that Councillor White be appointed to serve on Strathclyde Police Authority in place of Councillor Brooks; and
- (2) that Councillor McIlwee be appointed as Councillor White's substitute.

The Provost being of the opinion that the undernoted item was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Council to consider the revised proposals issued by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) at the earliest opportunity and to make further representations if considered appropriate. This was agreed unanimously.

481 “Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century” – Consultation on Revised Proposals

481

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment advising of revised proposals by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) in relation to the future of the Coastguard Service and of submissions made by the Council to the MCA in this regard. The report advised that the revised proposals included a reaffirmation of the proposal to close the Clyde Coastguard Centre, resulting in the loss of over 30 jobs in Inverclyde, and also the possibility of the remaining jobs at the Agency's Greenock base being relocated outside Inverclyde.

In this connection, there was circulated a letter to the Provost signed by Councillors McCabe and Nelson incorporating the following motion:

“The Council is extremely disappointed at the continued proposal to close the Clyde Coastguard Centre at Greenock and reinforces previous concerns and objections to these cuts to an essential frontline emergency service, which will put the lives of Inverclyde residents and all those that use the seas of the West Coast of Scotland at risk, and which will also result in the loss of frontline jobs in Inverclyde and the West of Scotland. The Council asks the neighbouring Councils of Argyll & Bute, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Glasgow, and Parliamentarians from all parties, to oppose in the strongest possible terms the closure of the Clyde Centre and to work together to persuade the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to retain this essential facility. To this end the Council instructs the Chief Executive to

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arrange, as a matter of urgency, a meeting of Councils, Parliamentarians and Coastguard trade unions to agree a plan of joint action.”

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the Council unanimously support the motion submitted by Councillors McCabe and Nelson.