

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL - 20 DECEMBER 2012

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 20 December 2012 at 4 pm

Present: Provost Moran, Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Dorrian, Jones, Loughran, MacLeod, McCabe, McColgan, McCormick, McEleny, McIlwee, Nelson, Rebecchi and Shepherd.

Chair: Provost Moran presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership, Mr G Malone (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services), Chief Financial Officer, Chief Internal Auditor, Finance Manager, Accountancy Manager, Ms A Edmiston (Finance Services) and Corporate Communications Manager.

730 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 730

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ahlfeld, Grieve and Wilson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

731 Annual Audit Report 2011/12 731

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive appending the Annual Audit Report for 2011/12 issued by Grant Thornton, the Council's External Auditors.

Mr Gary Devlin of Grant Thornton was present, spoke to the report, commented positively on the Council and answered questions from Members.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council endorse the contents of the Annual Audit Report 2011/12; and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Audit Committee for consideration of those issues which fall within that Committee's remit.

732 Update of Financial Strategy 2012/20 732

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval of the revised Financial Strategy 2012/13 - 2019/20 appended to the report.

Decided: that the latest revision of the Financial Strategy for 2012/13 - 2019/20 as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

733 2013/16 Budget - Updated Position

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the current position of the 2013/16 Revenue Budget following publication of Finance Circular 5/2012 by the Scottish Government and taking account of other developments subsequent to the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee in November 2012. There was circulated to Members, updated appendix 5 in relation to the budget timetable post New Year.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council note the Local Government Finance Settlement announced by the Scottish Government and that the figures are in line with previous information reported to Members;
- (2) that the Council approve the proposed treatment of 3 pay related budget pressures and agree to these being scored against the pay inflation allowance within the Finance Strategy, thus reducing the Funding Gap by £1.16M;
- (3) that the Council note the £789,000 over-recovery in respect of the 2010/14 Workstream Savings Programme and agree in principle to the proposed Savings Workstreams for the 2013/16 Programme;
- (4) that the Council note the position in respect of the 2013/16 Capital Programme and agree to use £2M of General Fund Reserves to reduce the funding shortfall to £1.33M over 2013/16;
- (5) that agreement be given to the use of some of the projected "Free" Reserves as recommended by the Corporate Management Team and included in appendix 3 to the report;
- (6) that the Council note that in order to set a balanced budget in February 2013 for the period 2013/16, a further £4.74M savings require to be agreed by the Council and that work is ongoing in this regard;
- (7) that agreement be given to suspend Standing Orders in respect of the decision of the Environment & Regeneration Committee on 25 October 2012 (para 617(3)) and it be agreed that the Corporate Directors progress the commissioning and procurement of services currently funded by the Regeneration Fund as detailed in paragraph 10.3 of the report; and
- (8) that the revised voluntary severance policy agreed by the Policy & Resources Committee on 15 November 2011 (para 767) be modified in the first instance to the extent that the discretionary added years provision of up to a maximum of six added years be extended until 30 September 2013.

734 Standards Commission for Scotland - Annual Report and Accounts 2011/12

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive appending the Annual Report and Accounts of the Standards Commission for Scotland 2011/12.

Decided: that the Council note the contents of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2011/12 of the Standards Commission for Scotland.