

POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE - 21 JANUARY 2014

Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee

Tuesday 21 January 2014 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Clocherty, MacLeod, McCabe, McEleny and McIlwee.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership, Head of Finance, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Head of Organisational Development, HR & Communications, Head of Property Assets & Facilities Management, Transitional Head of ICT and Business/Democratic Services Manager.

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

50 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 50

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson.

Councillors Clocherty, MacLeod, McCabe, McEleny and McIlwee declared an interest in Agenda Item 2 (Local Government Accountability and Transparency (Scotland) Consultation).

51 Local Government Accountability and Transparency (Scotland) Consultation 51

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive asking the Sub-Committee to consider a Council response to the Local Government Accountability and Transparency (Scotland) consultation issued by John Finnie MSP which the Inverclyde Council of 5 December 2013 had remitted to the Sub-Committee.

Councillors Clocherty, MacLeod, McCabe and McIlwee declared a non-financial interest in this item as practising Christians and Councillor McEleny declared an interest as a practising Roman Catholic. 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: that it be remitted to the Chief Executive to intimate the Council's response to the consultation paper prior to the response deadline of 27 January 2014 on the following basis:-

Membership of Local Authority Committees - no change to existing arrangements in respect of the appointment or voting entitlement of faith representatives to the Education Committee;

Recording of Votes - all votes taken at meetings of the Council, its Committees, Sub-Committees and Boards should be recorded to show those voting "yes", "no" and abstaining and that, in respect of other organisations, such as Arm's Length External Organisations, which are separate legal entities from the Council, it is a matter for those independent organisations to decide how to record votes; and

Webcasting - agree in principle to local authority webcasting of proceedings, subject to the availability of funding, and the retention of archived recordings for an agreed period, depending on cost, and noting that the consultation proposals are likely to have positive implications for equalities.