

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 17 NOVEMBER 2015

748 Policy & Resources Committee 2015/16 Revenue Budget – Period 6 to 30 September 2015 748

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications and Chief Financial Officer on the 2015/16 projected out-turn for the Policy & Resources Committee as at period 6 to 30 September 2015.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the projected underspend of £2,437,000 for the Policy & Resources Committee as at period 6 to 30 September 2015; and
- (2) that the Committee note the projected fund balance of £43,010 for the Common Good Fund and that a full review of the Common Good budget is being undertaken as part of the 2016/18 budget.

749 2015/16 General Fund Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2015 749

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the position of (1) the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2015 and (2) General Fund Reserves and Earmarked Reserves.

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

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the latest position of the 2015/16 Revenue Budget and General Fund Reserves;
- (2) that the Committee note the use of free reserves approved on 22 September 2015 by the Policy & Resources Committee reflected in Appendix 3 and that any further increases during the year will be subject to further reports; and
- (3) that the Council implement the new UK Living Wage rate of £8.25 per hour effective from 2 November 2015, the associated costs to be met from the under utilisation of the pay and non-pay inflation allowance.

750 Welfare Reforms Update 750

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (1) providing an update on the various aspects of Welfare Reform and (2) seeking approval for the allocation of part of the Welfare Reform revenue budget.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the report and the Council's initial experiences from the introduction of Universal Credit within Inverclyde;
- (2) that the proposed changes to non-SSSC DHP outlined in paragraph 5.4 be approved;
- (3) that the Committee approve the allocation of £43,000 from the Welfare Reform revenue budget from 2016/17 to allow the Council to create a post to continue to fulfil its fraud obligations post transfer of Housing Benefit fraud duties to the DWP in February 2016; and
- (4) that the Chief Financial Officer update Elected Members in due course on the position with regard to Universal Credit in Inverclyde including any impact following the termination of short term work contracts over the festive period.

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- 751 Treasury Management – Mid-Year Report 2015/16 751**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the operation of the treasury function and its activities for the first six months of 2015/16 as required under the terms of Treasury Management Practice 6 ('TMP6') on 'Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements'.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the Mid-Year Report on Treasury Management for 2015/16 and the ongoing work to ensure the delivery of financial benefits for the Council; and
- (2) that the Mid-Year Report be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval.
- 752 Insurance Fund Position as at 30 September 2015 752**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the Council's Insurance Fund as at 30 September 2015 and (2) highlighting any relevant issues.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the contents of the report and the continued financial benefits the Council is achieving from the current insurance strategy.
- 753 Ms Jan Buchanan 753**
- The Convener referred to Ms Jan Buchanan, Finance Manager, who would shortly be leaving the Council to take up a new post. On behalf of the Committee, he thanked her for her contribution to the work of the Council and extended best wishes to her for the future.
- 754 Annual Update in respect of Governance of External Organisations 754**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing the annual update in respect of the governance of external organisations.
- The following Members declared a non-financial interest in this item:-
- Councillor Ahlfeld as a Board Member of Inverclyde Community Development Trust, Inverclyde Leisure and River Clyde Homes;
- Councillor Clocherty as a Board Member of Inverclyde Community Development Trust, Inverclyde Leisure and Riverside Inverclyde;
- Councillor MacLeod as a member of Parklea Association and a Board Member of Inverclyde Leisure and River Clyde Homes;
- Councillor McCabe as a Board Member of Greenock Arts Guild, River Clyde Homes and Riverside Inverclyde;
- Councillor McIlwee as a Board Member of River Clyde Homes; and
- Councillor Rebecchi as a Board Member of Inverclyde Community Development Trust.
- All of the Members formed the view that the nature of their interests 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 last twelve months' performance in respect of the governance of external organisations as shown in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that the Committee approve the list of external organisations that will form part of the framework for the period October 2015 – September 2016 as shown in Appendix 3.

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755 Corporate Services Performance Report**755**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy and the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources providing an update on the achievement of key objectives by the Council's Corporate Services as detailed in the refreshed Education, Communities and Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2013/16 and the refreshed Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2013/16.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made by Corporate Services in delivering improvement actions outlined in their respective refreshed Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans 2013/16 be noted; and
- (2) that a seventh progress report be considered by the Committee at its meeting on 22 March 2016.

756 Statutory and Key Performance Indicators Annual Report 2014/15**756**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy (1) on the Council's Statutory and Key Performance Indicators Annual Report 2014/15 which details progress made in the last year towards achievement of performance indicator targets and (2) providing performance information regarding the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) performance return which is submitted to the Improvement Service.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the performance information outlined in the report;
- (2) that it be agreed that the performance information in the appendices be used to update the performance pages on the Council's website;
- (3) that it be noted that a further report will be prepared in 2016 when the 2014/15 LGBF indicators have been published and analysed and the Council's performance in relation to other Scottish local authorities is known; and
- (4) that officers review the roads customer satisfaction survey process with a view to improving participation.

757 Media & Social Media Protocol - Update**757**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications updating the Media & Social Media Protocol agreed by the Council in December 2013, providing additional information requested by the Committee on 22 September 2015 in relation to Ward Councillor involvement and clarifying the role of Council Champions.

The Corporate Communications Manager asked the Committee to approve additions to the Protocol as follows:-

Paragraph 1.3, bullet point 3, add 'Elected Members who are designated Council Champions may also be quoted singularly in relevant press releases'.

Paragraph 1.5 add 'designated Champions'.

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After discussion, Councillor McCabe moved that the Committee note the examples of areas where Ward Councillors would be invited to media events and launches detailed in appendix 2 and, subject to amendment at paragraph 1.3 to include the wording 'Elected Members who are designated Council Champions may also be quoted singularly in relevant press releases' and at paragraph 1.5 to include the wording 'designated Champions', approve the alterations to the Media and Social Media Protocol set out in Appendix 1.

As an amendment, Councillor Brooks moved that the Committee acknowledge that the present media policy as practised puts the opposition at a disadvantage and that otherwise the report be noted.

On a vote, three Members voted for the amendment and eight for the motion of which was declared carried.

Decided: that the Committee note the examples of areas where Ward Councillors would be invited to media events and launches detailed in Appendix 2 and, subject to amendment at paragraph 1.3 to include the wording 'Elected Members who are designated Council Champions may also be quoted singularly in relevant press releases' and at paragraph 1.5 to include the wording 'designated Champions', approve the alterations to the Media and Social Media Protocol set out in Appendix 1.

758 Council Tax – 2016/18 Budget Implications

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing information for consideration as part of the budget process regarding the implications of increasing Council Tax.

Decided: that the Committee note the contents of the report and agree to review this matter as part of the final consideration of the 2016/18 Budget.

759 2016/18 Budget Update

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the current position of the 2016/18 budget and (2) seeking decisions regarding savings options to form part of the Budget Consultation exercise to commence late November.

There was circulated to Members updated Appendix 2 to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the application of the efficiencies/budget adjustments outlined in Appendix 1;
- (2) that agreement be given to increase the 2017/18 Pressures allowance to £600,000 pending final decisions at the February Budget meeting;
- (3) that the Committee agree the package of savings to be subject to public consultation based on the information supplied in the updated Appendix 2; and
- (4) that the Committee otherwise note the contents of the report.

760 Inverclyde Information Sharing Protocol

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership seeking approval of the Inverclyde Council Information Sharing Protocol, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the Inverclyde Council Information Sharing Protocol; and

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(2) that the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, through the Information Governance Steering Group, decide on the best approach to implement the Information Sharing Protocol and for Council services and partner organisations to agree to the principles contained within.

761 Contract Awards – 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015 761

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advising the Committee of contracts awarded for the supply of goods or materials, provision of services and execution of works during the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015.

Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty and Rebecchi declared a non-financial interest in this item as Board Members of Inverclyde Community Development Trust. They also formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item business did not preclude their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision making process.

Decided: that the Committee note the contracts awarded by the Council during the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015.

762 Social Work Revenue Budget – Remit from Health & Social Care Committee 762

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Health and Social Care Committee relative to the Social Work Revenue Budget.

Decided: that it be agreed to allocate £75,000 from the recently approved Kinship Care funding to fund prudentially £1.1m of the cost of the Children's Homes, rather than a one-off contribution from the Residential Accommodation earmarked reserve.

763 Update on RCGF Bids for Physical Regeneration Projects – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee 763

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee requesting the allocation of funding from free reserves to fund physical regeneration projects.

Decided: that it be agreed to allocate £2m from free reserves to fund the Port Glasgow Lower Town Quarter, Strategic Arterial Road Improvement: Bakers Brae Realignment and King George VI Building, Port Glasgow projects.

764 Suspension of Parking Restrictions on Saturdays During December 2015 in Kilmacolm 764

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking approval for the suspension of on-street parking restrictions in Kilmacolm for the four Saturdays during December 2015.

Decided: that the on-street limited waiting restrictions on Lochwinnoch Road, Bridge of Weir Road, Port Glasgow Road and Market Place, Kilmacolm be suspended on all Saturdays during December 2015.

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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 during consideration of the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act as are set opposite each item.

Item	Paragraph(s)
Former Tied Housing Employees	1, 11 and 12
Change to Home Care Working Pattern	1, 11 and 12
Business Property Renovation Allowance Scheme	6

765 Former Tied Housing Employees 765

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications (1) providing an update on the formal consultation period with the trades unions in relation to the implementation of revised rent arrangements for employees in former tied houses and (2) outlining the potential next steps for consideration. Following a vote, the Committee agreed to take action all as detailed in the Appendix.

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

766 Change to Home Care Working Pattern 766

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications updating the Committee on the successful outcome of negotiations with the trades unions to implement revised working patterns for home care employees.

Decided: that the Committee note the successful outcome in relation to negotiations with the trades unions to implement the revised working patterns for home care employees.

767 Business Property Renovation Allowance Scheme 767

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources informing the Committee of the need to appoint external legal advisers to assist the Council in implementing a second Business Property Renovation Allowance Scheme at William Street, Greenock.

Decided: that the Committee note the proposal to carry out a competitive selection exercise to appoint external legal advisers to deliver the Business Property Renovation Allowance Scheme for the former education offices at William Street, Greenock.