

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 2 FEBRUARY 2016

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 2 February 2016 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, MacLeod, McCabe, McCormick, Campbell-Sturgess (for McEleny), McIlwee, Nelson, Loughran, Rebecchi and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Chief Financial Officer, Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications, ICT Operations Manager, Corporate Procurement Manager, Revenues & Customer Services Manager, Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager, Ms L Logsdon, Business Support Executive, Ms K Barclay, Corporate Policy Officer, and Mr D Robinson, Information Governance Officer.

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

73 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 73

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McEleny with Councillor Campbell-Sturgess substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

74 Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2015/18 – Progress Report 74

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) providing an update on the status of the projects within the Policy & Resources Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.

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

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the current position of the 2015/18 Capital Programme and the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1; and

(2) that the Committee approve the reallocation of £60,000 from the Desktop Replacement Programme to meet costs associated with achieving PSN Accreditation.

75 2015/18 Capital Programme 75

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the 2015/18 Capital Programme.

Decided: that the Committee note the current position of the 2015/18 Capital Programme.

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- 76 Policy & Resources Committee 2015/16 Revenue Budget – Period 8 to 30 November 2015** **76**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Chief Financial Officer on the 2015/16 projected out-turn for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 8 to 30 November 2015.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the projected underspend of £2,475,000 for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 8 to 30 November 2015; and
 - (2) that the Committee note the projected fund balance of £41,990 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.
- 77 2015/16 General Fund Revenue Budget as at 30 November 2015** **77**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 30 November 2015 and (2) providing an update on the position of the General Fund Reserves and Earmarked Reserves.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the latest position of the 2015/16 Revenue Budget and General Fund Reserves.
- 78 Procurement Update** **78**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on developments within Procurement, including developments regarding the new Procurement Strategy.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note progress on the Procurement Strategy;
 - (2) that the Committee note the progress made in savings delivery;
 - (3) that the Committee note the changes highlighted in the new Procurement Regulations; and
 - (4) that a draft protocol be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee setting out the ways in which contractors who had previously engaged in blacklisting are able to demonstrate that they have taken appropriate remedial action.
- 79 ICT Services Performance and PSN Update** **79**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on (1) the performance of ICT Services, (2) a number of projects including the Scottish Wide Area Network and (3) the Public Services Network compliance process.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the performance information detailed in the report and supporting appendices.
- 80 Information Governance and Management Update** **80**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on the Records Management Plan and the Council's new governance arrangements.

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Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the approval of the Inverclyde Council and Licensing Board Records Management Plan by the Keeper of the Records of Scotland subject to an improvement plan as recommended by the Keeper; and
- (2) that the Committee note that a new governance structure will be in place to implement the Records Management Plan and that a progress report will be submitted to the Committee on an annual basis.

81 Corporate Complaints**81**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership on the progress which has been made with regard to the implementation of a complaints framework for the Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress which has been made with regard to implementation of a complaints framework for the Council;
- (2) that agreement be given to the Council's revised complaint handling procedure; and
- (3) that approval be given to the allocation of £80,000 from the General Fund Reserves to create a temporary two year resource to help embed the improvements outlined in the framework.

82 Welfare Reforms Update**82**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director (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 extra one-off and recurring funding to welfare reform projects/cost pressures.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the expenditure pressure on the Scottish Welfare Fund Budget and agree to allocate £100,000 per year to the Scottish Welfare Fund from 2016/17 funded from the recurring welfare reforms monies increasing to £150,000 from 2017/18;
- (2) that representations be made to the Scottish Government regarding the decision in the recent budget settlement to cut by 7%, Scottish Welfare Fund grant funding in 2016/17 which was failing to meet need within the local community;
- (3) that approval be given to the request for the utilisation of one-off funding from the Welfare Reform Earmarked Reserve detailed in Appendix 2;
- (4) that the Committee note the initial experiences arising from the roll out of Universal Credit within Inverclyde; and
- (5) that the Committee note the transfer of Housing Benefit Fraud investigations to the Single Fraud Investigation Service operated by the DWP as of 1 February 2016.

83 Audit Scotland: Activity to Reduce Fraud and Error in Housing Benefit**83**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on the findings of Audit Scotland's review of activity to reduce fraud and error in Housing Benefit.

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Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the Council's assessment of Housing Benefit fraud and error reduction activities and how the Council's performance compares to Audit Scotland's findings as shown in Appendix 2;
- (2) that the Committee note where Audit Scotland evidenced good practice and areas where officers believe improvements can be made, as outlined in Appendix 3; and
- (3) that the Committee note that the Council will undergo a Housing Benefit risk assessment in 2016.

84 Update on Repopulation Outcome Delivery Group**84**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources providing an update on the work of the Repopulation Outcome Delivery Group which supports the delivery of the Repopulation Outcome of the Single Outcome Agreement.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress which has been achieved in relation to the original Repopulation Outcome Delivery Plan;
- (2) that the Committee endorse the new Repopulation Outcome Delivery Plan; and
- (3) that a briefing be arranged for Elected Members providing an overview of the population statistics available for the Inverclyde area.

85 Corporate Performance Report**85**

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

(Councillor McIlwee left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the performance information contained in the report; and
- (2) that it be agreed to consider the next corporate performance report at the May meeting of the Committee.

86 Co-ordination and Monitoring of Corporate Projects**86**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (1) on the findings of a review which has been carried out as to how the Council co-ordinates and monitors corporate projects and workstreams and (2) proposing action regarding a new structure to improve the Council's approach to this.

(Councillor McIlwee returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the findings of the review which has been undertaken of the Council's Corporate Improvement Groups structure; and
- (2) that agreement be given to the disbandment of the Corporate Improvement Groups and to the use instead of Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans as the mechanism through which corporate projects and workstreams are co-ordinated and monitored.

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- 87 Corporate Directorate Improvement Planning 2016/19 87**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the development and submission of the 2016/19 Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans.
- Decided:** that it be agreed that the 2016/19 Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans be submitted to the April/May cycle of the relevant Service Committees for approval.
- 88 Budget Consultation 2015/16 88**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing a summary of the key themes to emerge from the budget consultation which took place between November 2015 and January 2016.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the outcomes of the budget consultation process.
- 89 2016/18 Budget Update 89**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on the current position of the 2016/18 budget following the announcement of the 2016/17 grant settlement from the Scottish Government.
- There was circulated to the Committee amended Appendix 3 to the report.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note with concern the significant reduction in funding from the Scottish Government for the Council in 2016/17 and the impact this has on the previously reported budget strategy and public consultation exercise;
 - (2) that the Committee agree to the proposals in Appendix 2 (pages 1 and 2) and Appendix 3, as amended, regarding the 2016/18 Revenue Budget;
 - (3) that the Committee note the latest position of the 2016/18 Capital Programme; and
 - (4) that the Committee agree to the setting of the Council Tax for 2016/17 at the scheduled meeting of the Council on 18 February 2016 and to the finalisation of the 2016/18 Budget at a special meeting of the Council on 10 March 2016.
- 90 Common Good Budget 2016/18 90**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing information to the Committee to enable it to recommend action allowing the Council to set a 2016/18 Common Good Budget.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the position of the Common Good Budget and agree to the proposals to mainline £35,400 expenditure from 2016/17; and
 - (2) that the matter be remitted to the 2016/18 budget process.
- 91 Commission on Local Tax Reform 91**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing information to the Committee following the publication on 14 December 2015 of the report from the Commission on Local Tax Reform.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the contents of the recently published report from the Commission on Local Tax Reform and that the points raised by the Council in its submission have been taken into account.

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92 Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

92

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services requesting the Committee to consider the issues affecting Fixed Odds Betting Terminals within Inverclyde and to determine whether representation to relevant parties are to be made on behalf of the Council.

Decided: that the Committee note the current position and, in terms of the Council's in principle support, remit it to the Chief Executive to write to UK and Scottish Ministers to make representations for greater local control of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals.

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 ground 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)
Residual Waste Contract Options	8, 9 and 12
Proposed Sale of Premises – Cathcart Street, Greenock – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee	2, 6 and 9
Inverclyde Association for Mental Health (IAMH) Horticultural Training Centre and Community Centre, Broomhill – Remit from Education & Communities Committee	6

93 Residual Waste Contract Options

93

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on possible procurement routes to put in place a new contract for residual waste treatment.

Decided: that it be agreed that the Council take up the invitation to participate in the National Waste Brokerage Tender and agree that Officers conduct a mini-competition or perform a direct buy on the Scottish Excel Framework for Residual Waste for a period of three months to allow for any delays in the delivery of the national tender.

94 Proposed Sale of Premises – Cathcart Street, Greenock – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee

94

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 14 January 2016 requesting the Committee to ratify a decision relative to the sale of premises at Cathcart Street, Greenock, which was agreed, all as detailed in the Appendix.

95 Inverclyde Association for Mental Health (IAMH) Horticultural Training Centre and Community Centre, Broomhill – Remit from Education & Communities Committee

95

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Education & Communities Committee of 19 January 2016 requesting the Committee to approve virement of £300,000 of the £400,000 currently allocated to community facilities investment at Woodhall to the new community facility at Broomhill (IAMH), both projects being within the current Communities Capital Programme, to enable the project to progress.

Decided: that approval be given to the virement request.