

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 17 MAY 2016

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 17 May 2016 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Chief Financial Officer, Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Mr A Wilson (for Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications), Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager, Corporate Procurement Manager, ICT Operations Manager and Corporate Communications Manager.

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

323 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 323

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McIlwee, with Councillor McColgan substituting, and Councillor MacLeod, with Councillor Campbell-Sturgess substituting.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 24 (Property Assets Management Report – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee) – Councillors Ahlfeld, McCabe and McEleny.

Agenda Item 25 (Review of Summer Play Schemes) – Councillors Ahlfeld, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty and McColgan.

Agenda Item 26 (Payment of the Living Wage – Inverclyde Leisure – Remit from Education & Communities Committee) – Councillors Ahlfeld, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty and McColgan.

324 Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2015/18 – Progress Report 324

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and 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.

Decided: that the Committee note the current position of the 2015/18 Capital Programme and the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1.

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| 325 | Capital Programme 2015/18 | 325 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the 2015/18 Capital Programme.</p> <p>Decided: that the Committee note the current position of the 2015/18 Capital Programme and the projected advancement of spend achieved in 2015/16 as detailed in the report.</p> | |
| 326 | Policy & Resources Committee 2015/16 Revenue Budget – Period 11 to 29 February 2016 | 326 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer on the projected outturn for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 11 to 29 February 2016.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee note the projected underspend of £3,098,000 for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 11 to 29 February 2016; and</p> <p>(2) that the Committee note the projected fund balance of £34,560 for the Common Good Fund and that this was addressed as part of the 2016/18 budget.</p> | |
| 327 | General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/16 as at 29 February 2016 | 327 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/16 as at 29 February 2016 and (2) providing an update on the position of the General Fund Reserves and Earmarked Reserves.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee note the latest position of the 2015/16 Revenue Budget and General Fund Reserves; and</p> <p>(2) that the Committee note the decision of the Council on 10 March 2016 that any remaining Free Reserves remain unallocated and that consideration of potential uses be delayed until after the finalisation of the 2015/16 accounts in September 2016.</p> | |
| 328 | Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2016/19 | 328 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking approval of those aspects of the 2016/19 Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan which fall within the remit of the Policy & Resources Committee.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that approval be given to the Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2016/19; and</p> <p>(2) that the Committee note the changes to the line management arrangements as outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report.</p> | |

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329 Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2016/19 329

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of those aspects of the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2016/19 which fall within the remit of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2016/19;
- (2) that a report be submitted to the August meeting of the Committee in regard to extending the life of the Corporate Statement; and
- (3) that a briefing for Elected Members be held on the Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans.

330 Welfare Reforms Update 330

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on the actions being taken by the Council in response to ongoing Welfare Reform changes. (Councillor Wilson entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that a briefing paper be circulated to Members on the range of advice services provided to the public in Inverclyde and how these arrangements compare to the services provided by a Citizens' Advice Bureau.

331 ICT Performance Update 331

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the performance of ICT Services and (2) providing updates on a number of projects including the Scottish Wide Area Network.

Decided: that the Committee note the performance detailed in the report and supporting appendices.

332 Procurement Update 332

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources providing an update on developments within Procurement including the new Procurement Strategy and the new Procurement Regulations.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note progress on the Procurement Strategy and that the 2015/16 savings target has now been achieved;
- (2) that the Committee note the changes highlighted in the new Procurement Regulations; and
- (3) that the Committee note the portion of procurement spend with local suppliers and SMEs.

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- 333 Procurement in Councils – Audit Scotland Report 333**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) providing a summary of the Accounts Commission’s report on Procurement in Councils and (2) highlighting any actions.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the findings within the impact report, the progress being made and the actions which are being taken.
- 334 An Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2016 – Report by the Accounts Commission 334**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) advising the Committee of the recently issued Accounts Commission Report “An Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2016” and (2) seeking Committee approval of self-assessment actions appended to the report.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the Accounts Commission report; and
 (2) that the Committee approve the self-assessment against the recommendations contained in the report and the resultant action plan.
- 335 Freedom of Information Requests 2015 335**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources providing details of all Freedom of Information requests received by the Council during 2015.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the information provided in relation to Freedom of Information requests received by the Council during 2015.
- 336 Employee Opinion Survey - 2015 336**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications on the results of the latest three yearly Council-wide Employee Opinion Survey carried out in November 2015.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee recognise the positive nature of the Employee Opinion Survey and agree to focus now on maintaining this position and to cover areas where there is potential for further development by including these as matters for further consideration in the Organisational Development Strategy for 2016-2019;
 (2) that the Committee note that the Employee Opinion Survey results will be issued to Council employees via an ICON message from the Chief Executive ensuring that the communication can be included on notice boards etc. for PC non-users; and
 (3) that the Committee note the Improvement Plan outlined in section 5.3 of the report to address the key actions of the survey including feedback to employees on progress of the plan.

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337 Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty – Request by Councillor McCabe 337

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services on a request from Councillor McCabe that consideration be given to an invitation from the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty for the Council to become a member of the Forum.

Decided:

- (1) that Inverclyde Council become a member of the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty at a cost of £800 per annum; and
- (2) that it be recommended to Inverclyde Council that the Welfare and Financial Inclusion Champion, currently Councillor McCabe, and the Welfare Spokesperson of the largest Minority Group, currently Councillor MacLeod, be appointed to the Forum and that there also be provision for substitute Members.

338 Contract Awards – 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016 338

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 October 2015 to 31 March 2016.

Decided: that the Committee note the contracts awarded by the Council during the period 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016.

339 Procurement: Blacklisting Protocol 339

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking approval of a Blacklisting Protocol which provides guidance on how to appraise any remedial action taken by a tenderer who has previously engaged in the practice of blacklisting.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the Blacklisting Protocol appended to the report; and
- (2) that information on any Blacklisting Protocol applications be included in the six monthly contract award report to the Committee.

340 The Trade Union Bill 2015 - 2016 340

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications on the progress of the Trade Union Bill 2015-2016 from its first reading in the House of Commons in July 2015.

Mr Wilson advised the Committee that the Bill had received Royal Assent on 4 May 2016.

Decided: that the report and position of the Bill be noted.

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- 341 Use of Emergency Powers – Beacon Lighting for 90th Birthday of HM The Queen on 21 April 2016 341**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Communications Manager advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to approve the involvement of the Provost as Civic Head in the lighting of the Beacon on Lyle Hill on 21 April 2016.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the use of the emergency powers procedure to approve the participation of the Provost in the Civic Ceremony to light the Beacon on Lyle Hill to celebrate the 90th Birthday of HM the Queen; and
 - (2) that the Council's best wishes to HM The Queen on the occasion of her 90th birthday be recorded.
- 342 Use of Emergency Powers – Recruitment of Chief Executive 342**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to progress the recruitment and selection processes to appoint a new Chief Executive for Inverclyde Council.
- During the course of discussion on this item, Councillor McEleny asked that his discontent with the terms of the political representation on the shortleeting panel for the post of Chief Executive be noted.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the use of the emergency powers procedure to progress the recruitment and selection processes to appoint a new Chief Executive;
 - (2) that the Committee note with disappointment the intention of the Chief Executive to retire from the Council's service on 19 September 2016; and
 - (3) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on the composition of recruitment panels.
- 343 Hydro Electric Scheme – Inverclyde Council and Scottish Water Horizons – Holeburn at Greenock Cut 343**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services providing an update on the proposed development of a Hydro Scheme on the Holeburn at the Greenock Cut in a partnership between Scottish Water Horizons and the Council.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the position as outlined in the report.
- 344 Recovery of the Overpayment of Wages Policy 344**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications seeking approval of a revised policy for the recovery of the overpayment of wages.
- Decided:** that agreement be given to the policy for the recovery of the overpayment of wages as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

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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 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)
Update – William Street BPRA Scheme	8 and 9
Property Assets Management Report – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee	2, 6 and 9
Review of Summer Play Schemes – Remit from Education & Communities Committee	6
Payment of the Living Wage – Inverclyde Leisure – Remit from Education & Communities Committee	6

345 Update – William Street BPRA Scheme 345

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) advising the Committee of officer advice that the Council should no longer proceed with the proposed Business Property Renovation Allowance (BPRA) Scheme for the former Education HQ Offices at William Street, Greenock and (2) addressing the resultant estimated financial implications.

Decided: that the Committee note the advice from officers regarding the potential BPRA Scheme and agree that the refurbishment of the former Education HQ at William Street be procured in the traditional manner and funded from the Asset Management Plan Budget.

346 Property Assets Management Report – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee 346

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 28 April 2016 seeking approval of funding from the Capital Fund and virement from the Revenue Implications of the Capital Programme in respect of a number of proposals for the management of the Council's property assets at Cumberland Walk, Greenock. Councillors Ahlfeld, McCabe and McEleny declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes. 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 approval be given to the funding of the proposals from the Capital Fund and virement from the Revenue Implications of the Capital Programme.

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347 Review of Summer Play Schemes – Remit from Education & Communities Committee 347

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Education & Communities Committee of 3 May 2016 relative to the funding for the provision of eight play schemes operated by Inverclyde Leisure in 2016 and, subject to the outcome of a further review of play schemes, in 2017.

Councillors Ahlfeld, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty and McColgan declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. 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 agreed to provide £20,000 from Free Reserves in 2016/17 and £32,000 in 2017/18 in order to fund the provision.

348 Payment of the Living Wage – Inverclyde Leisure – Remit from Education & Communities Committee 348

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a remit from the Education & Communities Committee of 3 May 2016 relative to funding of a contribution towards the cost of Inverclyde Leisure implementing the Living Wage.

Councillors Ahlfeld, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty and McColgan declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. 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 a contribution of £33,000 funded from the Inflation Contingency be made towards the cost of Inverclyde Leisure implementing the Living Wage of £8.25 per hour with effect from 1 April 2016.