

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 9 AUGUST 2016

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 9 August 2016 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, McCabe, McCormick, McEleny, McColgan (for McIlwee), Nelson, Loughran and Rebecchi.

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), Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications, Head of Education, Acting Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager, Corporate Procurement Manager, ICT Operations Manager, Service Manager, Health Improvement, Inequalities and Personalisation and Ms J Boyd (Education Services).

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

418 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 418

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors McIlwee, with Councillor McColgan substituting, MacLeod and Wilson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

419 2015/16 Capital Programme Out-turn 419

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer advising the Committee of performance in relation to the delivery of the 2015/16 Capital Programme. (Councillor Nelson entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the 2015/16 Capital outturn position; and
- (2) that the Committee note the positive impact which the previous agreed actions have had on expenditure levels in 2015/16.

420 Revenue Budget Outturn 2015/16 - Unaudited 420

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the unaudited outturn of Service Committee budgets for the year ending 31 March 2016 and (2) highlighting any significant variances between revised budgets and outturn, together with Period 11 projections and outturn.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the underspend of £5,814,000 as set out in the unaudited accounts for 2015/16, the reasons for the material variances from budget and the 0.53% Period 11 projection movement and outturn; and

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(2) that the Committee note the positive impact which the robust approach to budget management by the Council and the Corporate Management Team has had on the overall position of the Council's finances.

421 2015/16 Efficiency Performance

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the level of efficiencies achieved by the Council in 2015/16 and (2) requesting the Committee to approve the annual return which requires to be submitted to COSLA by 19 August 2016.

Decided: that the Committee note the achievement of £1.741m recurring efficiency savings in 2015/16 and approve the submission of the annual return to COSLA by 19 August 2016.

422 Treasury Management – Annual Report 2015/16

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the operation of the treasury function and its activities for 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 annual report on Treasury Management for 2015/16, the issues in section 5.2 of the report following the result of the EU Referendum and the ongoing work to seek to ensure the delivery of financial benefits for the Council during the current uncertainty and beyond;

(2) that the annual report be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval; and

(3) that the Committee's appreciation be extended to the Treasury Management Team for the results achieved.

423 Benefits Service – Audit Scotland Risk Assessment

423

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the outcome of the recent Benefits Service Performance Audit/Risk Assessment conducted by Audit Scotland.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee welcome the positive findings of the report which indicate that no new risks have been identified in any area of housing benefit processing and note that the two risks carried forward from the 2012 Risk Assessment have already been completed;

(2) that the Committee commend the high standards of performance achieved by the Benefits Team in all areas of speed and accuracy of benefits processing; and

(3) that the Committee note the contents of the action plan and the subsequent approval from Audit Scotland.

424 Advice Services Team Annual Report 2015

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on the role and activities of the Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership Advice Services Team as set out in its Annual Report 2015.

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Decided: that the Committee note the Advice Services Team Annual Report 2015, appended to the report.

425 Auditing Best Value – A New Approach 425

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of a letter received by the Leader of the Council from the Accounts Commission which highlights a new approach to auditing Best Value and which confirms that Inverclyde Council will be one of six Councils which will be audited in the first year of the new approach which commences in October 2016.

Decided: that the Committee note both the content of the letter from the Accounts Commission to the Leader of the Council and the Council's intention to accept the offer of further engagement with the Commission to ascertain further details regarding the new approach to auditing Best Value.

426 MyAccount Scotland – Customer Authentication 426

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer recommending adoption of the MyAccount Scotland service as the primary method of customer authentication for online services provided by the Council.

Decided: that the Committee approve the use of MyAccount Scotland as the authentication process for online Council Services.

427 Disability Confident 427

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for the Council to register its interest in the Disability Confident Scheme launched by the Prime Minister in July 2013.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee give its agreement for Inverclyde Council to express its interest in the Disability Confident Scheme by registering on the appropriate website;
- (2) that it be agreed to sign up for the Disability Confident Self-Assessment and Accreditation Scheme when it is launched later in 2016; and
- (3) that it be agreed that the Council should host or participate in one of the Disability Confident events being planned around the country.

428 Composition of Recruitment Panels 428

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications seeking the Committee's approval to revise the wording of the Council's Recruitment and Selection Policy relative to gender balance on the Council's Recruitment Panels.

Councillor Jones was present and, with consent, addressed the Committee relative to the item.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree the revised wording of the Recruitment and Selection Policy in relation to Recruitment Panels, outlined in paragraph 5.2 of the report;
- (2) that the Committee agree that, where possible, a gender mix is achieved on Director and Head of Service Appointment Panels, as outlined in paragraph 5.3;

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(3) that the Committee note the political composition of Recruitment Panels based on the existing make-up of the Council as outlined in the table at Appendix 1 and agree that Panel composition should reflect the “Administration/Minority Groups” as detailed in the shaded column 4 of the table;

(4) that the Committee endorse the process for HSCP joint appointments as outlined in paragraph 6 which will be submitted to the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board for approval; and

(5) that agreement be given to the Recruitment and Selection Policy for the Chief Executive and Chief Officers as set out in Appendix 2.

429 Chief Social Work Officer Statutory Role

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising the Committee of the revision to the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) Guidance and the proposal to vary the CSWO arrangements in Inverclyde.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the revised guidance for the role of Chief Social Work Officer; and

(2) that approval be given to the appointment of the Head of Children’s Services and Criminal Justice as the named Chief Social Work Officer for Inverclyde and that the matter be referred for noting to the Inverclyde Council.

430 Inverclyde Council Corporate Statement 2013/17 – Proposed Extension to 2018

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to extend the timeline of the Council’s Corporate Statement 2013/17 for one year.

Decided: that approval be given to the proposal to extend the timeline of the Corporate Statement 2013/17 for one year to cover a revised period of 2013/18.

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 item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 and 8 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

431 Contract Arrangements for Residual Waste Collection

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) seeking approval to award a 12 month contract for residual waste collection and (2) setting out the resultant financial implications.

Decided: that approval be given to the award of a 12 month contract for residual waste collection and the resultant financial implications set out in the report.