

Councillor Gordon Blair joined the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business.

* 4. FINANCIAL REPORTS MONITORING PACK - 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing a summary of the financial monitoring reports as at the end of December 2023. There were five detailed reports setting out the position as at 31 December 2023 which included the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report; Monitoring of Financial Risks; Capital Plan Monitoring Report, Treasury Monitoring Report and Reserves and Balances.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee

1. noted the revenue budget monitoring report as at 31 December 2023;
2. noted the financial risks for 2023-24;
3. noted the capital plan monitoring report as at 31 December 2023 and approved the proposed changes to the capital plan outlined in Appendix 4 of that report;
4. noted the treasury monitoring report as at 31 December 2023;
5. noted the reserves and balances report as at 31 December 2023; and
6. agreed to recommend to Council that the revenue virements over £0.200m during November and December 2023 were approved.

(Reference: Report by Sect

1. approve the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy and the indicators contained within. Note that the figures within the Strategy will be updated to reflect the budget decisions agreed at Council;
2. approve the continued use of the asset life method for the repayment of loan fund advances using a 5.1% annuity interest rate, with the exception of spend to save schemes where the funding/income profile method could be used;
3. approve the proposed asset repayment periods as detailed within section 2.7 of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement; and
4. approve the ability to continue to use countries with

Decision

4. agreed to a delegation of powers to the Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth to allow any subsequent amendment to approved Crown Estate grant allocations to ensure that any risk relating to having to payback any grant is minimised, noting that this could involve swapping Crown Estate allocations with Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) allocations of grants against individual projects, but would not affect the projects identified but simply the grant source.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Development and

1. approved the People Strategy 2024-2028; and
2. noted the Strategic Workforce Planning Priorities for the period 2024-2028.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Customer and Support Services dated 9 January 2024, submitted)

13. CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD UPDATE AND DECARBONISATION TRACKER

The Committee gave consideration to a report outlining overarching activities of the Climate Change Board to the Council and providing an update of key contributors to the

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee noted the updates contained at Section 5 of the submitted report; and the full Decarbonisation Tracker update contained at Appendix A to the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services dated 15 January 2024, submitted)

14. ARGYLL AND BUTE HOUSING EMERGENCY - PROJECT OFFICER RESOURCE

The Committee gave consideration to a recommendation from the meeting of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee held on 30 November 2023 in respect of a proposal for the recruitment of a Project Officer to assist in the acceleration of the work to address the Housing Emergency in Argyll and Bute.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee agreed

1. the recommendation from the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee that the Council recruit a Project Officer to assist in accelerating the work to address the Housing Emergency, with funding for the post being drawn from the
2. that the Project Officer post would be recruited on a fixed term contract for a period of 3 years.

(Reference: Recommendation from Environment, Development and Infrastructure

(Reference: Policy and Resources Committee workplan dated February 2024, submitted)