

**MINUTES of MEETING of POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER,**

## **Decision**

The Committee –

1. Noted the Revenue Budget Monitoring report as at 31 August 2016.
2. Noted the progress of the Service Choices Policy Saving Options as at the end of August 2016.
3. Noted the Capital Plan Monitoring report as at 31 August 2016.
4. Noted the Treasury Monitoring Report as at 31 August 2016 and agreed to recommend to Council that the Investment Strategy be amended to reduce the minimum sovereign rating from AA to AA- to match the Capita Asset Services suggested counterparty criteria and allow access to a wider range of counterparties.
5. Noted the overall level of reserves and balances and noted the monitoring of the earmarked reserves.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Finance dated 13 October 2016, submitted)

### \* (b) **Treasury Monitoring Report as at 31 August 2016**

Consideration was given to a report which set out the Council's treasury management position for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 August 2016 and included information on the overall borrowing position, borrowing activity, investment activity, economic background, interest rate forecast and prudential indicators.

## **Decision**

The Committee –

1. Noted the treasury monitoring report as at 31 August 2016.
2. Agreed to recommend to Council that the Investment Strategy be amended to reduce the minimum sovereign rating from AA to AA- to match the Capita Asset Services suggested counterparty criteria and allow access to a wider range of counterparties.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Finance dated October 2016, submitted)

## **5. BUDGETARY OUTLOOK 2017-18 TO 2019-20 - UPDATE**

A report which provided the Committee with an update on the budgetary outlook 2017-18 to 2019-20 was considered. The report contained detail on the assumptions which had been updated and included a timetable for the 2017-18 budget preparation process.



(Reference: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services and Acting Executive Director of Community Services dated 13 October 2016, submitted)

\* **8. DIGNITY AT WORK: ELIMINATING WORKPLACE BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

The Committee gave consideration to a report which presented the revised Dignity at Work: Eliminating Workplace Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedure for approval for implementation on 1 December 2016.

**Decision**

The Committee –

1. Noted the content of the report.
2. Recommended the revised Dignity at Work: Eliminating Workplace Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedure be approved by Council on 24 November 2016 for implementation on 1 December 2016; subject to the inclusion of a reference being made to the Councillors Code of Conduct as being the process in place in respect of elected members.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 27 October 2016, submitted)

\* **9. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2016/17-2017/18 AND SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY 2016/17-2017/18 - DRAFT DOCUMENTS AND ONGOING CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval of the Procurement Strategy 2016/17 to 2017/18 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2016/17 to 2017/18 and which detailed the output of the consultation undertaken for both.

**Decision**

The Committee –

1. Noted the content of the report.
2. Recommended approval of the Procurement Strategy 2016/17 to 2017/18 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2016/17 to 2017/18 to full Council.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 17 October 2016, submitted)

\* **10. COUNCIL TAX ON SECOND HOMES**

The Committee gave consideration to a report inviting them to consider whether they wished to remove the Council Tax discount for second homes from April 2017. The Scottish Government had produced draft legislation to allow Councils to bring this into effect.

## **Decision**

The Committee agreed to recommend to full Council that the Council exercise its discretion under regulation 4 The Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 to vary the council tax charge on second homes such that no discount applies across the whole of the Council area with effect from 1 April 2017 which would be conditional on the draft SSI entitled The Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016 being enacted with effect from 1 April 2017.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 15 September 2016, submitted)

### **11. DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS POLICY UPDATE**

The Council gave consideration to a report which sought approval of the updating of the Discretionary Housing Payments Policy following new guidance from the Department for Work and Pensions about households affected by the new reduced benefit cap which would be brought in from 7 November 2016.

## **Decision**

The Committee approved the proposed amendment to the policy for awarding Discretionary Housing Payment as detailed in appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 13 September 2016, submitted)

### **12. CONSULTATION ON SOCIAL SECURITY**

The Committee considered a report inviting them to respond to a Scottish Government consultation on the future of Social Security in Scotland. A draft response to the consultation was appended to the report for the Committees consideration.

## **Decision**

The Committee agreed the response to the Scottish Government consultation as detailed at appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 12 September 2016, submitted)

### **13. KILMAHEW/ST PETER'S -0a62003w5i9963ANGE 0 Td (Custom335j ( .)Tj 28.OF5:**

The Committee agreed to change the grantee name from NVA to Kilmahew/St Peter's Ltd on the Council award for £900k, made up of £250k capital funds and £650k of Regeneration Grant Funding, for the Kilmahew/St Peter's Project.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 19 September 2016, submitted)

#### **14. AMBERG-SULZBACH TWINNING ARRANGEMENT**

Consideration was given to a report outlining the detail of a twinning visit that took place on 1 to 5 August 2016 with Amberg Sulzbach. The report also presented options for strengthening the twinning arrangement in anticipation of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017.

##### **Decision**

The Committee –

1. Noted the content of the report.
2. Noted the similarities between Argyll and Bute and Amberg-Sulzbach and the invaluable shared knowledge and experience.
3. Endorsed the proposed strengthening of the twinning arrangement with Amberg-Sulzbach.
4. Agreed that a small delegation from Amberg-Sulzbach be invited to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning arrangement in Argyll and Bute.
5. Agreed that this would be funded through the existing twinning budget and supplemented by a one off allocation of up to a maximum of £10K from the earmarked balance no longer required as outlined in the Reserves and Balances August 2016 update report at paragraph 3.3.3 of the submitted report.
6. Noted the recent trip to Bavaria undertaken by the Scottish Government, accompanied by business representatives and welcomes the synergy between the Council's actions and those now undertaken by the Scottish Government

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 27 October 2016, submitted)

#### **15. LORN ARC UPDATE**

The Chair welcomed the new Lorn Arc Programme Manager, David Gunn, to the meeting; who had joined the Council the previous month and was based in Oban.

A report was considered which provided the Committee with an update on progress in relation to the review of the commercial market and affordability assumptions in the Lorn Arc Business Case, the latest position with regard to the delivery of the individual projects, the recruitment of staff for the Lorn Arc team and latest budget position as at the end of August 2016.

## **Decision**

The Committee –

1. Noted that the current position of the Lorn Arc Programme had been to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee for information.
2. Noted that commercial agents had been appointed to review the economic modelling assumptions in the 2013 full business case.
3. Agreed that a more substantive report be prepared and reported to the first appropriate Policy and Resources Committee.
4. Noted the current position with the Lorn Arc Programme.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 28 September 2016, submitted)

## **16. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORKPLAN - OCTOBER 2016**

Consideration was given to the Policy and Resources Committee Work Plan as at October 2016.

### **Decision**

The Committee noted the work plan as at October 2016.

(Reference: Policy and Resources Committee Work Plan as at October 2016, submitted)

The Chair advised that in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the appendices relating to the following 2 items of business would require exclusion of the press and public should any Member wish to discuss the content of those appendices on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8&9 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## **17. OBAN NORTH PIER - PHASE 1 - MARITIME QUARTER VISITOR FACILITY**

Consideration was given to a report which presented the revised final business case for the Maritime Visitor Facility for approval by the Committee.

### **Decision**

The Committee –

1. Approved the Full Business Case for the Maritime Visitor Facility;
2. Agreed that £1.6m is drawn down from the CHORD budget allocation for provision of the Maritime Visitor Facility;
3. Instructed the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services to proceed to tender for the Maritime Visitor Facility; and

4. Instructed the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services to award the contract to the preferred contractor should total project costs fall within the allocated project budget.

(Reference: Reports by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated September 2016 and Full Business Case, submitted)

**18. OBAN NORTH PIER - PHASE 2 - MARITIME QUARTER TRANSIT BERTHING FACILITY**

Consideration was given to a report which presented the full business case for the Transit Berthing Facility for approval by the Committee.

**Decision**