

**MINUTES of MEETING of POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held BY MS TEAMS
on THURSDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2022**

Present: Councillor Robin Currie (Chair)

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| Councillor Rory Colville | Councillor Yvonne McNeilly |
| Councillor Mary-Jean Devon | Councillor Aileen Morton |
| Councillor Kieron Green | Councillor Gary Mulvaney |
| Councillor Jim Findlay | Councillor Douglas Philand |
| Councillor Audrey Forrest | Councillor Alastair Redman |
| Councillor Jim Lynch | Councillor Elaine Robertson |
| Councillor David Kinniburgh | Councillor Richard Trail |

Attending: Pippa Milne, Chief Executive
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director
Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director
Anne Blue, Interim Head of Financial Services
Fergus Murray, Head of Development and Economic Growth
Patricia O'Neill, Governance Manager

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS MONITORING PACK - 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing a summary of the financial monitoring reports as at the end of December 2021. There were six detailed reports, setting out the position as at 31 December 2021.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee –

1. Noted the revenue budget monitoring report as at 31 December 2021.
2. Noted the progress with the policy savings options as at 31 December 2021.
3. Noted the financial risks for 2021-22.
4. Noted the capital plan monitoring report as at 31 December 2021 and approved the proposed changes to the capital plan outlined in Appendix 4 of that report.
5. Noted the treasury monitoring report as at 31 December 2021.
6. Noted the reserves and balances report as at 31 December 2021.
7. Noted there were no revenue virements over £0.200m during November and December.

(Reference: Report by Section 95 Officer dated 10 February 2022, submitted)

Councillor Jim Findlay joined the meeting at this point.

*** 5. BUDGETING PACK 2022-2023**

The Policy and Resources Committee agreed to recommend to Council at their meeting on 24 February 2022 to –

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 2.6 of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.
4. Approve the ability to continue to use countries with a sovereign rating of AA- and above, as recommended by the Council's external treasury management advisors.

(Reference: Report by Section 95 Officer dated 10 February 2022, submitted)

7. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FQ3 2021/22

The Committee gave consideration to a report presenting the FQ3 2021/22 Key Performance Indicators for Financial Services, Commercial Services, Legal and Regulatory Support and Customer Support Services in a simplified format commensurate with the Covid-19 situation.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee noted the FQ3 2021/22 Key Performance Indicator Reports as presented.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Customer Support Services dated 17 February 2022, submitted)

8. LORN ARC TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCE PROGRAMME - UPDATE REPORT

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an update on the Lorn Arc initiative. The report dealt with proposed amendments to the Tax Incremental Finance Agreement (TIF) between the Council and the Scottish Government. The report provided detailed updates on the current live projects at Dunbeg and Oban Airport.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee –

1. Noted and endorsed that officers would continue to negotiate with Scottish Government to

4. Agreed that officers would continue to progress with the other innovative proposals for the Oban Airport Business Park while the funding and tender bids were awaiting conclusion.
5. Noted that TSL would concurrently progress with the planning process in respect of the proposed development.
6. Noted the re-establishment of the Dunbeg Corridor Working Group that had held its first

8. Agreed to recommend to Council that any remaining underspend following the call for further applications from SEF Round 4 (2022/23) is earmarked and used to augment a future SEF round for 2024/25 – Round 6.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth dated 18 January 2022, submitted)

10. UK LEVELLING UP FUND - PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an update on progress inters of the development of the Levelling Up Fund Bids, following on from the update provided in September 2021.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee –

1. Noted the progress with the two bids and approved that the bids are now titled Argyll and Bute Western Seaboard Marine Gateways Initiative and Connected Argyll and Bute.
2. Approved the removal of the Ardrishaig/Crinan Canal element of the regeneration bid.
3. Approved the adjustment to the Oban Integrated Transport Hub to become a Hydrogen Fuelling station (Hydroban).
4. Approved that up to £150,000 can be drawn down from the Recovery and Renewal Fund subject to the Chief Executive and the two Executive Directors being satisfied that the monies are for the purposes of developing the Levelling Up Fund bids.
5. Agreed that the Chief Executive and the two Executive Directors are delegated authority to approve any alterations required to elements of the bids, as agreed by Council in September 2021, as revised today, where this is necessary to meet deadlines for submission, after consultation with the Leader, Depute Leader and Leader of the largest Opposition Group.
6. Agreed that the Chief Executive and the two Executive Directors are delegated authority to approve the final bid submissions in the period from and including 5 May 2022, when Councillors demit office in anticipation of the Local Government election to be held on that date, until the first meeting of the Council when an administration is formed.

Councillor Douglas Philand, after moving an amendment which failed to find a seconder, requested that his dissent be recorded from the foregoing decision.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth dated 24 January 2022, submitted)

11. RURAL GROWTH DEAL PROGRESS - UPDATE AND RESOURCING OF BUSINESS CASES

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an update on the Rural Growth Deal. The report also sought approval to commit further financial resources to support the development of project business cases and associated project feasibility and development work.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee

4. Noted that officers would bring forward a report during 2022-23 in respect of Place Based Investment Funding once the allocation is known.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth dated 31 January 2022, submitted)

Councillor Elaine Robertson re-joined the meeting at this point.

13. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Policy and Resources Committee Workplan was before the Committee for noting.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee noted the content of the workplan as at February 2022.

(Reference: Policy and Resources Committee Workplan dated February 2022, submitted)

The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the press and public for the following item of business 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.

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