

**MINUTES of MEETING of POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held BY MICROSOFT TEAMS  
on THURSDAY, 11 MAY 2023**

**Present:** Councillor Robin Currie (Chair)

Councillor Gordon Blair	Councillor Jim Lynch
Councillor Audrey Forrest	Councillor Liz McCabe
Councillor Kieron Green	Councillor Yvonne McNeilly
Councillor Amanda Hampsey	Councillor Ross Moreland
Councillor Fiona Howard	Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Willie Hume	Councillor Douglas Philand
Councillor Andrew Kain	Councillor Alastair Redman
Councillor Reeni Kennedy-Boyle	

**Also Present:** Councillor Jan Brown Councillor Peter Wallace

**Attending:** Douglas Hendry, Executive Director  
Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director / Section 95 Officer  
Anne Blue, Head of Financial Services  
Jane Fowler, Head of Customer Support Services  
Ross McLaughlin, Head of Commercial Services  
Fergus Murray, Head of Development and Economic Growth  
Shona Barton, Governance Manager

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence intimated.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Fiona Howard declared a non-financial interest in item 8 of the agenda (Strategic Development Festival Fund/MCIB Fund 5.2) 2023/2024 due to her appointment as a trustee to the Helensburgh Winter Festival. She advised that she would leave the meeting during the consideration of this item of Business.

Councillor Dougie Philand noted a connection in relation to item 11 of the agenda (Kilmartin Museum Request for Funding) due to him being one of the local members for that Ward and advised that he would leave the meeting during the consideration of this item of business.



## **Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee

1. approved the Equality Mainstreaming Report; and
2. noted the findings of the Equal Pay Audit, which had been carried out as part of duties under equality legislation.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Customer Support Services dated 6 April 2023, submitted)

Councillor Fiona Howard, having declared an interest in the following item of business, left the meeting and took no part in the consideration of this item.

## **8. STRATEGIC EVENTS AND FESTIVALS FUND - ROUND 5.2 2023/2024**

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an update on the further call for applications in respect of Round 5 Strategic Events and Festivals Fund (SEF). The report provided details of the applications submitted and recommendations regarding all eligible applications put forward to receive grant funding.

## **Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee

1. agreed to the award of eligible SEF Round 5.2 grants amounting to £48,371 as detailed in Table 1 of the submitted report;
2. agreed that any SEF grant offer only be formally issued upon confirmation from the individual event organisation that the event is formally confirmed and is definitely going ahead and still meets the SEF Round 5 criteria. These grants were detailed in Appendix 1, Table 1 of the submitted report;
3. agreed to continue de.04(su)56(b08(i)6w)35(e)-6(0TJE5 )-159(i)-27(n)56.5 Tm: Report by Ex

## 9. CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD

### (a) DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME (DRS) IMPLICATIONS FOR ARGYLL AND BUTE INCLUDING COUNCIL SERVICES AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Committee gave consideration to a report raising awareness of, and outlining the implications for Argyll and Bute as a result of the implementation of the Deposit Return Scheme which had been due to come into effect on 16 August 2023, but had been delayed for 7 months to March 2024. The deposit return scheme would require everyone who purchased a glass or plastic bottle, or drinks can to pay a 20p deposit which would be redeemable at a point of purchase when they returned their empty bottle or can.

#### **Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee

1. noted the content of the report and endorsed the work of officers across the Council to implement the Deposit Return Scheme;
2. agreed that officers should continue to highlight the concerns of businesses and the potential negative impacts on matters such as Free School Meals to the Scottish Government seeking greater clarity and response on operational matters;
3. agreed that the Policy Lead for Climate Change and Environment Services be authorised to make representations to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Council; and
4. noted that the Scottish First Minister announced on 18th April 2023 that the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) would no longer launch this August, with a seven month delay and new implementation date of March 2024 to allow de-risking and operational issues to be addressed.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services dated 4 April 2023, submitted)

### (b) COUNCIL CARBON EMISSIONS AND CARBON LITERATE ORGANISATION (CLO) BRONZE AWARD

T

emissions were 28% down since records began. The report also advised that the Council had achieved the nationally recognised Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation Award.

#### **Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee

1. confirmed a small 6% increase in emissions reported for the year, but that carbon dioxide emissions had still reduced by 28.4% in the past 7 years; and

2. commended and agreed to promote the Council achievement of the Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO) accolade noting that further training will be rolled out for staff, Councillors and Communities via ACT and Council.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services dated 5 April 2023, submitted)

(c) **COUNCIL DECARBONISATION PLAN TRACKER**

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing the latest update to the

**Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee noted the updated Decarbonisation Plan Tracker.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services dated 5 April 2023, submitted)

(d) **UPDATE ON LOCAL HEAT AND ENERGY**

## **Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee

1.