

**MINUTES of MEETING of POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held ON A HYBRID BASIS IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD AND BY MICROSOFT TEAMS
on THURSDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2024**

Present: Councillor Robin Currie (Chair)

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| Councillor Gordon Blair | Councillor Liz McCabe |
| Councillor Audrey Forrest | Councillor Yvonne McNeilly |
| Councillor Kieron Green | Councillor Ross Moreland |
| Councillor Fiona Howard | Councillor Gary Mulvaney |
| Councillor Andrew Kain | Councillor Alastair Redman |
| Councillor Reeni Kennedy-Boyle | |

Also Present: Councillor Jan Brown
Councillor Graham Archibald Hardie
Councillor Jennifer Kelly
Councillor Paul Kennedy
Councillor Tommy MacPherson
Councillor Peter Wallace

Attending: Pippa Milne, Chief Executive
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director
Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director
Anne Blue, Head of Financial Services
Fergus Murray, Head of Development and Economic Growth
Ross McLaughlin, Head of Commercial Services
Jane Fowler, Head of Customer and Support Services
Shona Barton, Governance Manager
Carolyn Cairns, HR and OD Manager
Matt Mulderrig, Development Policy and Housing Manager
Lorna Byrne, Revenue and Benefits Assistant

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Amanda Hampsey, Willie Hume, Jim Lynch and Dougie Philand.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ross Moreland advised in relation to item 8 of the agenda (Strategic Events and Festivals Fund - Round 6 2024/2025) that he had been appointed to the group

Having taken note of the updated Standards Commission Guidance in relation to declarations (issued on 7 December 2021) with

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 Section 95 Officer dated 12 January 2024, submitted)

* **5. BUDGETING PACK 2024-2025**

The Committee gave consideration to the full package of papers included in the budgeting packs in relation to the revenue and capital budgets for 2024-2025.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee agreed to refer consideration of the Budgeting Pack 2024-2025 to the Council meeting on 22 February 2024, without recommendation.

(Reference: Budgeting Pack 2024-2025 dated 15 February 2024, submitted)

* **6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

The Committee gave consideration to a report presenting the draft Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for approval. The report also set out the policy for the repayment of loans fund advances for 2024-25.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee agreed to refer to Council 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 2.7 of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement; and
4. approve the ability to continue to use countries with a sovereign rating of AA- and

(Reference: Report by Section 95 Officer dated 24 January 2024, submitted)

* **7. SCOTTISH WELFARE**

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee

1. agreed to the award of eligible SEF Round 6 grants amounting to £114,700 as detailed in Table 1 of the submitted report;
2. agreed that any SEF Round 6 grant offer only be formally issued upon confirmation from the individual event organisation that the event is formally confirmed as going ahead, any

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

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 CHANGCLIMATE

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