

**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 AUGUST 2024**

**Present:**

Councillor Jim Lynch (Chair)

\* 4.

1. noted the need for the Education Service to deliver service improvements in Argyll and Bute and broaden available curriculum offerings across schools through digital learning provision; and noted that Option 2 would transform and modernise the education network to deliver the same level of security, equity

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Financial Services dated 9 July 2024, submitted)

7.

The Committee gave consideration to a report outlining a proposed response to the Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Call for Views as part of its Stage 2 Scrutiny of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill.

**Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee agreed –

1. the draft response detailed at Appendix 1; and
2. that officers arrange for the approved response to be submitted by the 30 August 2024 deadline.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support dated 24 July 2024, submitted)

8.

The Committee gave consideration to a report seeking approval to redirect Crown Estates Funding previously approved for solar powered CCTV on the island airports of Coll and Colonsay, towards the purchase of a new fire appliance vehicle.

**Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee agreed to redirect the Crown Estates Funding previously awarded for the provision of solar powered CCTV at the island airports of Coll and Colonsay, towards the provision of a backup fire appliance vehicle, to meet Civil Aviation Regulations in the provision of fire cover at island licensed airports.

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



## **Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee ±

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15.

The Committee gave consideration to a report highlighting the Council annual carbon emissions for the period 2022/23.

**Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee noted –

1. the publication of the Council's 2022/23 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties report, confirming a 6% decrease in emissions reported for the year, noting that the Council's carbon footprint reduced by 1,705 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, from 28,217 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021/22 to 26,512 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022/23; and
2. the Full Decarbonisation Tracker update attached at Appendix A to the submitted report.

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

16.

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing various updates in respect of the Council's activities in relation to climate change.

**Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee –

1. agreed the proposal to vary / redistribute existing funding amounts allocated to three funding activities via the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund based on subscription and feedback from our schools;
2. noted the Council's Officer-led response submitted to the Scottish Government's draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3 public consultation; and
3. agreed to implement the Sustainable Scotland Network's Leaders' Climate Emergency Checklist to support the Council's assessment and development of climate change capabilities, in line with SSN Guidance.

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

17.

The Committee gave consideration to a recommendation from the meeting of the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee of 22 May 2024 in relation to the proposed closure of the Scottish Government Simplified Planning Zones Pilot Project.

**Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee agreed to the closure of the Scottish Government Simplified Planning Zones Pilot Project and to the return of unspent monies to the Scottish Government.





programme expenditure that was originally being funded by earmarked reserves and those earmarked reserves used for the weather related revenue expenditure. The cost to borrow was estimated to be £130k and £50k could be used from the loans fund revenue set aside for street lighting, leaving a net cost pressure of £80k that should be built into future years budget estimates.

5. recognised that local authorities require additional support to cope with increasingly challenging and unforeseen impacts of severe weather and climate change, especially for Argyll and Bute whose rural and island communities absolutely depend upon reliable lifeline routes and infrastructure, and therefore agreed to lobby for both the funding that was needed now, and effective forward/longer term planning which addresses the need to maintain and safeguard infrastructure resilience as a key contributor to growing, thriving local and national economies.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure dated 5 August 2024, submitted; and Motion By Councillor Jim Lynch and seconded by Councillor Gary Mulvaney, tabled)

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 Paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## 19.

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an update on the Helensburgh Waterfront Development Commercial Area and the selection of a preferred developer.

### **Decision**

The Policy and Resources Committee agreed the recommendations as per the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services dated 23 July 2024, submitted)

## 20.

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 15 August 2024.

(Reference: Policy and Resources Committee Workplan dated 15 August 2024, submitted)