

Minute of Meeting Council

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 14 December 2023	09:30	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present: Councillor Jennifer Adam, Councillor Fiona Airlie-Nicolson, Councillor Alison Ann-Dowling, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Jacqueline Cameron, Provost Lorraine Cameron, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Graeme Clark, Councillor Carolann Davidson, Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Chris Gilmour, Councillor Edward Grady, Councillor Gillian Graham, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor John Gray, Councillor Anne Hannigan, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Robert Innes, Councillor Alec Leishman, Councillor Bruce MacFarlane, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Kenny MacLaren, Councillor Mags MacLaren, Councillor Colin McCulloch, Councillor Janis McDonald, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor David McGonigle, Councillor Jamie McGuire, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor Iain McMillan, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Kevin Montgomery, Councillor Sam Mullin, Councillor Will Mylet, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor Emma Rodden, Councillor John Shaw, Councillor Ben Smith, Councillor Andy Steel

Chair

Provost Cameron, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

A Russell, Chief Executive; J O'Neill, Director of Children's Services; G McNeil, Director of Housing, Environment & Infrastructure; A MacArthur, Director of Finance & Resources; A Morrison, Head of Economy & Development Services, L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Partnerships and L Mahon, Head of Marketing & Communications (all Chief Executive's); J Trainer, Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice/Chief Social Work Officer (Children's Services); C Dalrymple, Head of Facilities and Property Services (Environment, Housing & Infrastructure); M Conaghan, Head of Corporate Governance, P Murray, Head of Digital, Transformation & Customer Services, A Black, Managing Solicitor (DPO), J Kilpatrick, Finance Business Manager, D Low, Democratic Services Manager and R Devine Senior Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources); V Hollows, Chief Executive and F Naylor, Finance, Governance & Business Improvement Director (both OneRen); and C Laverty, Chief Officer (Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership).

Webcasting of Council Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Provost Cameron intimated that this meeting would be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site.

Obituary

Provost Cameron referred to the recent death of former Councillor Bill McGuinness and advised members that the Council's condolences had been sent to Bill's wife, Liz, and son, Mark. As part of a tribute to his life before, during and after his time as a Councillor, reference was made amongst other things to Bill's legacy, integrity, decency, principles and sense of humour. Individual members of the Council paid personal tributes endorsing the sentiments expressed.

Welcome

Provost Cameron welcomed J O'Neill to her first meeting of the Council following her appointment as Director of Children's Services.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Transparency Statements

Councillor Mullin declared a connection to item 3 by reason of him being an NHS employee outwith the Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership area. However, he indicated that he had applied the objective test and did not consider he had an interest to declare.

1 **Minutes of Meetings of Council, Boards and Panels**

Council, 28 September 2023

Communities and Housing Policy Board, 31 October 2023

Regulatory Functions Board, 1 November 2023

Education and Children's Services, 2 November 2023

Audit Risk and Scrutiny, 6 November 2023

Economy and Regeneration Policy Board, 7 November 2023

Planning and Climate Change Policy Board, 7 November 2023

Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board, 8 November 2023

Special Council, 16 November 2023

Regulatory Functions Board, 16 November 2023

Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board, 23 November 2023

Leadership Board, 6 December 2023

DECIDED: That the Minutes be approved.

2 **Provost's Update**

The Provost intimated that an update in relation to the duties she had undertaken since the last meeting of the Council, on 28 September 2023, had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

DECIDED: That the update be noted.

3 **General Fund Financial Update**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources providing an update on financial sustainability and the general economic and financial outlook.

The report referred to previous financial updates to Council which had outlined the requirement for the Council to develop and deliver savings which would address major financial sustainability risks and highlighted that this requirement had not abated. The report provided the current and forecast target level of savings; an update with regards to the current year financial position, together with an early indication of the potential position for 2024/25 and subsequent years over the medium-term.

The report outlined key issues in terms of the requirement to sensibly and prudently use reserve balances to support the Council's medium-term position along with key risks to this position. In addition, the report provided an update to challenges, previously advised to Council, to the existing capital programme.

DECIDED:

(a) That the economic outlook provided in the report be noted;

(b) That the update provided in relation to the current financial year, the medium-term and the continued requirement to deploy reserve balances in a controlled and managed fashion to maintain financial stability be noted;

(c) That the update provided in section 7 of the report in relation to the net forecast financial position and the importance of Council understanding that the use of reserve balances to support the Council's financial position was a short-term tool only be noted and that the principles outlined in relation to the planned use of reserves be agreed; and

(d) That the capital update provided in section 8 of the report be noted and the recommended adjustments to the capital plan agreed.

4 **Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators Mid-year Review 2023/24**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the 2023/24 Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators Mid-year Review.

The report stated that the mid-year review report had been prepared in compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021. The report provided a review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24, incorporating the annual investment strategy; a review of the Council's borrowing and investments; a review of compliance with treasury management and prudential indicators; and an economic update and interest rate forecast. Reference was made within section 7 of the report to a number of recent and future changes to the prudential indicators for capital expenditure, capital financing requirements and external debt.

DECIDED:

(a) That the treasury management activity for the period 1 April to 13 October 2023, reporting period 7, be noted; and

(b) That the 'Probable' prudential indicators for capital expenditure, as detailed in Section 7 of the report, be approved.

5 **Governance Arrangements**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to governance arrangements.

The report advised that following requests from political groupings within the Council, changes to the membership of the Fairer Renfrewshire Sub-committee and the Economy & Regeneration Policy Board were proposed with Councillor Paterson being replaced by Councillor Steel on the Fairer Renfrewshire Sub-committee and Councillor McCulloch being replaced on the Economy & Regeneration Policy Board by Councillor McDonald.

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved that Councillor Paterson be replaced by Councillor Steel on the Fairer Renfrewshire Sub-committee and that Councillor McCulloch be replaced on the Economy & Regeneration Policy Board by Councillor McDonald. Furthermore that Councillor Paterson be replaced on the Economy & Regeneration Policy Board by Councillor Innes; that the membership of the the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board and the Communities & Housing Policy Board each be increased by two members; that Councillor Steel be added to the membership of the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board; and that Councillor K MacLaren be added to the membership of the Communities & Housing Policy Board”.

Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Hood, moved as a first amendment that in addition “Councillor Hood be added to the membership of the Communities & Housing Policy Board and Councillor Devine be added to the membership of the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board”.

Councillor McMillan, seconded by Councillor Montgomery moved as a second amendment that in addition “Council agrees that the Independent members of Renfrewshire Council should take up a place on Policy Boards and associated committees of the Council.

Council further agrees to bring forward to the next full council meeting on how this can be achieved”.

In terms of Standing Order 27 the first amendment was accepted by Councillors Nicolson and Paterson, being the mover and seconder of the motion.

In terms of Standing Order 27 the second amendment moved by Councillor McMillan and seconded by Councillor Montgomery was withdrawn.

The motion, as amended, was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be agreed that Councillor Steel replace Councillor Paterson on the Fairer Renfrewshire Sub-committee;

(b) That it be agreed that Councillor McDonald replace Councillor McCulloch and Councillor Innes replace Councillor Paterson on the Economy & Regeneration Policy Board;

(c) That it be agreed that the membership of the Communities & Housing Policy Board and the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board each be increased by two members;

(d) That Councillors Hood and K MacLaren be added to the membership of Communities & Housing Policy Board; and

(e) That Councillors Devine and Steel be added to the membership of Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board.

6 **Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board Review of Charges for Bulk Items Uplift for the Elderly**

Under reference to item 13 of the Minute of the meeting of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board held on 6 November 2023 there was submitted a report by the Lead Officer on behalf of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board relative to the Board's Review of Charges for Bulk Items Uplift for the Elderly.

The report detailed the background and key findings of the review, and the recommendations were outlined in section 11 of the report.

DECIDED: That the findings of the review be noted and the recommendations detailed at section 11 of the report, be approved.

7 **Statutory Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts**

Under reference to item 5 of the Minute of the meeting of Council held on 28 September 2023, there was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the statutory review of the Council's polling places and polling districts.

The report intimated that, in terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983, local authorities were required to divide their area into polling districts for the purposes of parliamentary and other elections and to designate polling places for these polling districts and keep them under review. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 further amended the Representation of the People Act 1983 by introducing a statutory duty for all polling districts and polling places to be reviewed by the end of January 2015 and at least every 5 years thereafter.

The report advised that a notice had been published, on 11 June 2023, in this connection giving details of the timetable for and scope of the review and the consultation process and invited comments on the current arrangements. In addition, notice had been given to key groups, including councillors, Council services, community councils, Renfrewshire Valuation Board, the local Disability Liaison Group and Capability Scotland. A second notice had been published in October 2023 and the comments received from both phases of the consultation were detailed within Appendix 4 to the report, together with alternative arrangements for two polling places that had become unavailable since the previous review in 2019. The report proposed that the Tannahill Centre replace St Ninian's Church Centre and Our Lady of Peace Primary School replace Linwood Parish Church Hall. Appendix 5 of the report identified local housing developments that might impact on polling arrangements. A copy of the proposed polling scheme, detailing polling places, which had been endorsed by the Returning Officer, was attached as Appendix 3 of the report for approval.

DECIDED:

(a) That the polling places as set out in the appendices to the report be approved for use in all elections and referenda until the next review; and

(b) That the changes made to the polling districts required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Order 2023 be homologated.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.23 am and reconvened at 10.35 am.

8 Notice of Motion 1 by Councillors Devine and Hood

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Devine and Hood in the following terms:

“Brown Bin Permit / Garden Waste Charge

Council agrees that the £40 charge for a domestic garden waste permit should be scrapped and the collection of garden waste should revert to a service provided by the Council free of charge.”

Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Hood, then moved the motion.

Councillor Gilmour, seconded by Councillor McMillan, moved as a first amendment that “Council agrees to scrap bin charges for charities and churches in the next financial year and additionally to carry out a review of Brown Bin charges. If Cllr. Devine and Hood wish to bring forward a balanced budget that excludes a charge for domestic garden waste as we in the Labour Group did for 2022/23 then they are at liberty to do so.”

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Cameron, moved as a second amendment that the first sentence of the first amendment be replaced by “Council agrees to carry out a review of Brown Bin charges.”

In terms of Standing Order 27 Councillors Gilmour and McMillan, being the mover and seconder of the first amendment, accepted the second amendment, which became the substantive amendment.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Adam, Airlie-Nicolson, Ann-Dowling, Burns, J Cameron, Provost L Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Clark, Davidson, Audrey Doig, Andy Doig, Gilmour, Grady, G Graham, Hannigan, Hughes, Innes, MacFarlane, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, McCulloch, McDonald, McEwan, McGuire, McGurk, McMillan, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Mullin, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Shaw, Smith and Steel.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Devine, N Graham, Gray, Hood, Leishman, J MacLaren and McGonigle.

36 members having voted for the amendment and 7 members having voted for the motion, the amendment, as amended, was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: Council agrees to carry out a review of Brown Bin charges. If Cllr. Devine and Hood wish to bring forward a balanced budget that excludes a charge for domestic garden waste as we in the Labour Group did for 2022/23 then they are at liberty to do so.

Order of Business

In terms of Standing Order 16, the Provost intimated that she proposed to alter the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting by considering item 10 of the agenda before item 9 of the agenda.

9 Notice of Motion 3 by Provost L Cameron and Councillor McEwan

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Provost Cameron and Councillor McEwan in the following terms:

“Council notes Save the Children’s Gaza Emergency Appeal responding to the needs of children impacted by the ongoing conflict, and agrees to make a donation of £10,000 to fund its UK-based activities in recognition of the considerable strain which this appeal has placed on its resources.”

Provost Cameron and Councillor McEwan, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Council notes Save the Children’s Gaza Emergency Appeal responding to the needs of children impacted by the ongoing conflict, and agrees to make a donation of £10,000 to fund its UK-based activities in recognition of the considerable strain which the appeal has placed on its resources.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.57 am to allow young people from St Anthony’s Primary School to perform a melody of Christmas carols. The Provost advised that the school had been awarded the Gold Kite award for Music, the first in Scotland to receive the award, and thanked the children and staff for their performance. The meeting reconvened at 11.30 am.

10 Notice of Motion 2 by Councillors Nicolson and Hughes

In terms of Standing Order 20 there was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Nicolson and Hughes in the following terms:

“Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

Council condemns the attack on Israel by Hamas which targeted civilians and resulted in the killing of over 1,400 civilians and the decades long suppression of Palestinians in the operation of an apartheid regime by the Israeli Government which only serves to continue the conflict.

Council also condemns the rise in Islamophobia and Antisemitism in all their forms and recognises the anxiety experienced by these global communities at this time.

Renfrewshire Council expresses its horror at the conflict and the resulting ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The failure of effective diplomacy and the deployment of battlefield weaponry and tactics in a dense urban environment has resulted in thousands of deaths and millions of people, the majority of whom are children, fleeing devastating conditions, left without food, shelter or basic amenities contrary to the basic principles of International Law

This Council adds its voice to calls for a ceasefire to those of the United Nations, Scottish Government and many civic leaders in the UK who have shown leadership and humanity in trying to bring an end to the bloodshed.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister calling on him to support calls for a ceasefire.”

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor J Cameron, then moved the motion.

Councillor McMillan, seconded by Councillor Montgomery, moved as a first amendment that the motion be replaced with “Council unequivocally condemns in the strongest possible terms Hamas’s barbaric and unjustifiable terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens on 7 October 2023, and demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

Council further agrees that all human life is equal, abhors the loss of innocent lives, and affirms the right of all Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and security; further agrees that the killing of innocent civilians in Gaza, including women and children who have been besieged by Israeli forces, must stop.

Council associates itself with the United Nations Secretary-General’s statements that there must be an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to allow civilians to escape harm, for hostages to be released, for humanitarian aid to reach those in need, and affirming that international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, must be upheld.

Council reiterates its solidarity with Scotland’s Jewish, Muslim and Palestinian communities and condemns antisemitism, Islamophobia or any other form of hatred.

Council believes that a credible, lasting and sustainable peace can only be based on the two-state solution through reinvigorated diplomatic and political efforts in the Middle East Peace Process; agrees with many in the international community that all parties must agree to an immediate ceasefire; recognises that, in order for any ceasefire to work, it requires all sides to comply; is horrified by the Hamas statement that it would repeat the 7 October attacks and continue rocket fire; further calls on the International Criminal Court to investigate the conduct of all parties in this conflict, and reaffirms the commitment to a lasting peace and a two-state solution with the end of illegal occupation, siege and settlements.”

Councillor N Graham, seconded by Councillor Leishman, moved as a second amendment that the motion be replaced with “Council is shocked and appalled by the terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas which is an Iranian backed terror organisation. Over 1300 Jews were killed in the biggest pogrom since 1945 alongside nationals from over 13 countries.

Council condemns the deliberate use of sexual violence aimed at Jewish children and women by Hamas.

Council condemns the celebrations of this terrorist attack and the calling for the genocide of Jews around the world in cities including Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Council condemns Hamas tactics of hiding under civilian infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and housing to launch attacks on Israel which has resulted in a higher number of Gazan civilian deaths.

Council calls for the release of all hostages taken by Hamas and other criminal gangs which are controlled by Hamas in Gaza.

Council agrees that Israel has the right to defend itself and must abide by International Law.

Council agrees with the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and leader of the opposition Sir Keir Starmer that further humanitarian pauses are needed to get aid supplies into Gaza and to facilitate further hostage releases.

Council further notes that Israel is a democratic state where all Israeli citizens have the right to vote regardless of religion, gender, sexual orientation and political views and is the only country in the region that upholds modern woman's rights and that recognises same sex marriages and partnerships.

Council recognises Israel's right to exist alongside its Arab neighbours."

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors Nicolson and J Cameron, being the mover and seconder of the motion, accepted the first amendment which became the substantive motion.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the motion: Councillors Adam, Airlie-Nicolson, Ann-Dowling, Burns, J Cameron, Provost L Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Clark, Davidson, Devine, Audrey Doig, Andy Doig, Gilmour, Grady, G Graham, Hannigan, Hood, Hughes, Innes, MacFarlane, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, McCulloch, McDonald, McEwan, McGuire, McGurk, McMillan, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Mullin, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Shaw, Smith and Steel.

The following members voted for the amendment: Councillors N Graham, Gray, Leishman, J MacLaren, McGonigle.

38 members having voted for the motion and 5 members having voted for the amendment, the motion as amended was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: Council unequivocally condemns in the strongest possible terms Hamas's barbaric and unjustifiable terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens on 7 October 2023, and demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

Council further agrees that all human life is equal, abhors the loss of innocent lives, and affirms the right of all Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and security; further agrees that the killing of innocent civilians in Gaza, including women and children who have been besieged by Israeli forces, must stop.

Council associates itself with the United Nations Secretary-General's statements that there must be an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to allow civilians to escape harm, for hostages to be released, for humanitarian aid to reach those in need, and affirming that international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, must be upheld.

Council reiterates its solidarity with Scotland's Jewish, Muslim and Palestinian communities and condemns antisemitism, Islamophobia or any other form of hatred.

Council believes that a credible, lasting and sustainable peace can only be based on the two-state solution through reinvigorated diplomatic and political efforts in the Middle East Peace Process; agrees with many in the international community that all parties must agree to an immediate ceasefire; recognises that, in order for any ceasefire to work, it requires all sides to comply; is horrified by the Hamas statement that it would repeat the 7 October attacks and continue rocket fire; further calls on the International Criminal Court to investigate the conduct of all parties in this conflict, and reaffirms the commitment to a lasting peace and a two-state solution with the end of illegal occupation, siege and settlements.

11 **Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Gilmour and Ann-Dowling**

In terms of Standing Order 20 there was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Gilmour and Ann-Dowling in the following terms:

"Better Buses for Strathclyde

This Council notes:-

- The 'Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy and Delivery Plan: Case for Change' report presented to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Board on 29 September 2023.
- That this evidence-based report has found that bus use is in 'sustained, long-term decline' in Strathclyde, with bus patronage, the size of bus networks, bus service frequency and network coverage all falling.
- That despite decline in bus networks, bus fares continue to rise in Strathclyde at a higher rate than inflation and at a higher rate than the cost of travelling by other modes of transport.
- That the current model of bus service has failed to deliver integrated ticketing or an integrated approach to public transport planning.
- That in 2021/22 public sector support represented 56 per cent of bus operator revenues in Scotland.
- That publicly funded revenue has been boosted by free bus travel for under 22s resulting in 84 million journeys to education, work and leisure, where services are available to use.
- The announcement in the 22/23 Programme for Government that the Scottish Government will work with third sector and local authorities to provide free bus travel to asylum seekers and refugees including displaced people from Ukraine.

This Council believes:-

- The current deregulated model of bus provision is inadequate and that there is now a compelling case for changing the model of bus provision across Strathclyde.

- A new model of bus provision will enable bus services and public transport across Strathclyde to contribute more towards a healthier- environment, inclusive economic growth and an improved quality of life for the people and communities of Strathclyde.
- A new model of bus provision will enable bus routes, timetables, ticketing, fares and integration with other modes to be designed by identifying and addressing communities' needs in urban and in suburban and rural areas where there is little or no current service.

This Council agrees to write to SPT and the Scottish Government to communicate its view that:-

- As part of ongoing work developing the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy, SPT must develop a new model of bus provision for Strathclyde (on behalf of its 12 constituent local authorities) that is fully integrated with other transport modes, affordable, reliable, easy to use, and democratically accountable.
- SPT can deliver this most effectively by taking forward the franchising and municipal ownership powers in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 (and not through 'Bus Service Improvement Partnerships', which are not suitable for delivering transformational change).
- This new model of bus provision will help achieve the Regional Transport Strategy objectives and policies set out by SPT by ensuring that bus provision is designed through identifying and addressing communities' needs.
- The Scottish Government must support SPT (and Scotland's other Regional Transport Partnerships) seeking to replace deregulated bus models with models of regulation or common ownership, with fair funding and regulation that respects the autonomy and democratic wishes of Scotland's communities and regions. A democratically accountable Strathclyde-wide bus franchising system should be progressed to improve bus services across the region and realise the ambitions of the Regional Transport Strategy.
- The Scottish Government must support SPT in reforming transport governance, over a 10 year period, as set out in the recent Centre for Cities report."

In addition:

Officers should continue to collaborate with other local authorities and SPT to progress the use of the franchising and municipal ownership powers, in line with this motion."

Councillors Gilmour and G Graham, then moved the motion.

Councillor Paterson, seconded by Councillor Innes, moved as an amendment that "in addition Officers should also continue to work with grassroots community groups in Renfrewshire to establish a Community Transport Co-operative and provide updates to the relevant policy board on progress."

In terms of Standing Order 27 Councillors Gilmour and G Graham, being the mover and seconder of the motion, agreed to accept the amendment.

DECIDED: This Council notes

- The 'Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy and Delivery Plan: Case for Change' report presented to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Board on 29 September 2023.

- That this evidence-based report has found that bus use is in 'sustained, long-term decline' in Strathclyde, with bus patronage, the size of bus networks, bus service frequency and network coverage all falling.
- That despite decline in bus networks, bus fares continue to rise in Strathclyde at a higher rate than inflation and at a higher rate than the cost of travelling by other modes of transport.
- That the current model of bus service has failed to deliver integrated ticketing or an integrated approach to public transport planning.
- That in 2021/22 public sector support represented 56 per cent of bus operator revenues in Scotland.
- That publicly funded revenue has been boosted by free bus travel for under 22s resulting in 84 million journeys to education, work and leisure, where services are available to use.
- The announcement in the 22/23 Programme for Government that the Scottish Government will work with third sector and local authorities to provide free bus travel to asylum seekers and refugees including displaced people from Ukraine.

This Council believes:-

- The current deregulated model of bus provision is inadequate and that there is now a compelling case for changing the model of bus provision across Strathclyde.
- A new model of bus provision will enable bus services and public transport across Strathclyde to contribute more towards a healthier- environment, inclusive economic growth and an improved quality of life for the people and communities of Strathclyde.
- A new model of bus provision will enable bus routes, timetables, ticketing, fares and integration with other modes to be designed by identifying and addressing communities' needs in urban and in suburban and rural areas where there is little or no current service.

This Council agrees to write to SPT and the Scottish Government to communicate its view that:-

- As part of ongoing work developing the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy, SPT must develop a new model of bus provision for Strathclyde (on behalf of its 12 constituent local authorities) that is fully integrated with other transport modes, affordable, reliable, easy to use, and democratically accountable.
- SPT can deliver this most effectively by taking forward the franchising and municipal ownership powers in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 (and not through 'Bus Service Improvement Partnerships', which are not suitable for delivering transformational change).
- This new model of bus provision will help achieve the Regional Transport Strategy objectives and policies set out by SPT by ensuring that bus provision is designed through identifying and addressing communities' needs.

- The Scottish Government must support SPT (and Scotland's other Regional Transport Partnerships) seeking to replace deregulated bus models with models of regulation or common ownership, with fair funding and regulation that respects the autonomy and democratic wishes of Scotland's communities and regions. A democratically accountable Strathclyde-wide bus franchising system should be progressed to improve bus services across the region and realise the ambitions of the Regional Transport Strategy.
- The Scottish Government must support SPT in reforming transport governance, over a 10 year period, as set out in the recent Centre for Cities report.

In addition:

Officers should continue to collaborate with other local authorities and SPT to progress the use of the franchising and municipal ownership powers, in line with the motion; Officers should also continue to work with grassroots community groups in Renfrewshire to establish a Community Transport Co-operative and provide updates to the relevant policy board on progress.

12 **Notice of Motion 5 by Councillors Burns and M MacLaren**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Burns and M MacLaren in the following terms:

"Council instructs the Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council to contact the Chief Executive of Scottish Water to request that they prioritise Ferguslie main road (A761) at Linwood toll to be on the highest priority list for flood prevention works as a matter of urgency."

Councillors Burns and M MacLaren, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Council instructs the Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council to contact the Chief Executive of Scottish Water to request that they prioritise Ferguslie main road (A761) at Linwood toll to be on the highest priority list for flood prevention works as a matter of urgency.

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Councillor McNaughtan left the meeting prior to consideration of the following items of business.

13 **Notice of Motion 6 by Councillors McGonigle and Gray**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors McGonigle and Gray in the following terms:

"Support for the Wave Trust's 70/30 campaign

That Council notes and supports the ethos of the Wave Trust's 70/30 campaign to reduce child abuse, neglect, and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by at least 70% by the year 2030. The Wave Trust campaign already has wide cross-party support and plays an important part in the entrenchment of intergenerational health and income inequalities. Council asks officers to bring a report on progress to a future meeting. This report will provide an update on how Renfrewshire Council and wider partners are progressing the ambition to reduce childhood abuse and trauma in our local communities and to embed a trauma-informed approach across services. Council:

- Notes and recognises the wide preventative work already being carried out by Renfrewshire Council and acknowledges that there is a wide understanding of ACE's across services, and the positive impact this can have on children as well as adults.
- Notes the ambitions of the national campaign to make Scotland the first Adverse Child Experiences (ACE) aware Nation.
- Notes that Renfrewshire Council cannot achieve these ambitions alone, and there is a wider responsibility and multi-agenda approach required in addition to the support of our wider communities.
- Notes that supporting an early intervention approach to investment in promoting safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments can have a positive impact on a broad range of challenges, and on the development of skills that will help children and young people reach their full potential.
- Continues to support and promote a trauma-informed, ACE awareness ethos to have a positive impact on both individuals and society as a whole.
- Continues to support all front-line staff across the Council and partners to be encouraged to take up opportunities for continued professional learning sessions on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
- Acknowledges that Adverse Childhood Experiences can and do impact on learning, attainment and future prospects for children and young people.
- Seeks assurance that Trauma Informed learning is taking place across our early years and school settings to support children and young people."

Councillors McGonigle and Gray, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Support for the Wave Trust's 70/30 campaign

That Council notes and supports the ethos of the Wave Trust's 70/30 campaign to reduce child abuse, neglect, and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by at least 70% by the year 2030. The Wave Trust campaign already has wide cross-party support and plays an important part in the entrenchment of intergenerational health and income inequalities. Council asks officers to bring a report on progress to a future meeting. This report will provide an update on how Renfrewshire Council and wider partners are progressing the ambition to reduce childhood abuse and trauma in our local communities and to embed a trauma-informed approach across services.

Council

- Notes and recognises the wide preventative work already being carried out by Renfrewshire Council and acknowledges that there is a wide understanding of ACE's across services, and the positive impact this can have on children as well as adults.
- Notes the ambitions of the national campaign to make Scotland the first Adverse Child Experiences (ACE) aware Nation.
- Notes that Renfrewshire Council cannot achieve these ambitions alone, and there is a wider responsibility and multi-agenda approach required in addition to the support of our wider communities.
- Notes that supporting an early intervention approach to investment in promoting safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments can have a positive impact on a broad range of challenges, and on the development of skills that will help children and young people reach their full potential.
- Continues to support and promote a trauma-informed, ACE awareness ethos to have a positive impact on both individuals and society as a whole.
- Continues to support all front-line staff across the Council and partners to be encouraged to take up opportunities for continued professional learning sessions on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
- Acknowledges that Adverse Childhood Experiences can and do impact on learning, attainment and future prospects for children and young people.
- Seeks assurance that Trauma Informed learning is taking place across our early years and school settings to support children and young people.

14 **Notice of Motion 7 by Councillors N Graham and Leishman**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors N Graham and Leishman in the following terms:

"International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Council agreed on 28/02/19 to the following motion below. (In Bold)

“As part of Renfrewshire Council's ongoing equalities work we resolve to join with the UK and Scottish Governments and the major political parties in the UK in signing up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines on antisemitism which defines antisemitism thus:

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non- Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish Community Institutions and religious facilities. The guidelines highlight manifestations as including:

1. Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extreme view of religion.

2. Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonizing or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other social institutions.
3. Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
4. Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
5. Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust. Accusing Jewish citizens as being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
6. Denying the Jewish people their right to self determination, e.g. by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
7. Applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
8. Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g. claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterise Israel or Israelis.
9. Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
10. Holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the state of Israel.

Council resolves to: Restate its condemnation of all forms of racism in all its manifestations and adopts the IHRA definition of antisemitism as the working model for challenging and confronting incidents of this form of racism."

In the wake of the recent terrorist attacks in Israel and a rise in antisemitism across the world including the United Kingdom this council reaffirms its commitment to the above motion."

Councillors N Graham and Leishman, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Council agreed on 28/02/19 to the following motion below. (In Bold)

As part of Renfrewshire Council's ongoing equalities work we resolve to join with the UK and Scottish Governments and the major political parties in the UK in signing up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines on antisemitism which defines antisemitism thus:

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non- Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish Community Institutions and religious facilities. The guidelines highlight manifestations as including:

1. Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extreme view of religion.
2. Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonizing or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the

media, economy, government or other social institutions.

3. Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
4. Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
5. Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust. Accusing Jewish citizens as being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
6. Denying the Jewish people their right to self determination, e.g. by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
7. Applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
8. Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g. claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterise Israel or Israelis.
9. Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
10. Holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the state of Israel.

Council resolves to: Restate its condemnation of all forms of racism in all its manifestations and adopts the IHRA definition of antisemitism as the working model for challenging and confronting incidents of this form of racism.

In the wake of the recent terrorist attacks in Israel and a rise in antisemitism across the world including the United Kingdom this council reaffirms its commitment to the above motion.

Minute of Meeting

Communities and Housing Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 16 January 2024	13:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present: Councillor Jacqueline Cameron, Councillor Carolann Davidson, Councillor Gillian Graham, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Robert Innes, Councillor Alec Leishman, Councillor Kenny MacLaren, Councillor Mags MacLaren, Councillor Colin McCulloch, Councillor Janis McDonald, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor Jamie McGuire, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor Iain McMillan, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Emma Rodden

Chair

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

G McNeil, Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure; L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Partnerships, S Inrig, Assistant Manager (Employability) and M Kirk, Assistant Planning & Policy Development Officer (all Chief Executive's); J Trainer, Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice (Children's Services); L Feeley, Head of Housing Services, G Hannah, Head of Climate, Public Protection & Roads, N Drummond, Lead Officer (Environmental Co-ordination), G Heaney, Climate & Public Protection Manager, T Irvine, Homeless & Housing Support Services Manager, P McLean, Housing Lead Officer (Participation, Performance & Policy), M MacRury, Housing Newbuild Programme Manager, A Miller, Development Officer (Housing Regeneration & Service Improvement), D Murray, Area Housing Manager, C Robertson, Warden Services Manager, R Walkinshaw, Housing Regeneration & Development Manager and F Wilson, Serious Organised Crime & Trading Standards Manager (all Environment, Housing & Infrastructure); and J Kilpatrick, Finance Business Partner, R Devine Senior Committee Services Officer and D Cunningham, Committee Services & Licensing Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Webcasting of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Board would be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast on the Council's internet site.

Welcome

The Convener welcomed Councillors Hood and K MacLaren to the first meeting of the Policy Board since their appointment.

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-committee

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Sub-committee held on 31 October 2023, a copy of which forms the Appendix to this Minute.

Councillor McMillan proposed that the Minute be amended by the replacement of the first sentence of item 3 - Local Issues - with 'In response to a request, made by Councillor McMillan, in relation to deliberate fire raising in the Johnstone South & Elderslie ward area Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) agreed to provide more detail'. This was agreed.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved subject to the above amendment.

2 General Services Revenue, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Budget Monitoring

There was submitted a General Services Revenue, Housing Revenue Account and capital budget monitoring report by the Director of Finance & Resources for the period 1 April to 10 November 2023.

The report stated that the projected outturn, as at 31 March 2024, for all services reporting to this Policy Board was a breakeven position and that the projected capital outturn for projects was a breakeven position against the revised budget for the year. Summaries were provided over the relevant services in tables within the report, together with further analysis contained within appendices to the report. In addition, the report indicated that revenue expenditure budget adjustments totalling £0.534 million, had been processed since approval of the budget in March 2023. Details of the adjustments were outlined within the report. It was highlighted that there had been no capital budget adjustments during the period.

DECIDED:

(a) That the projected revenue outturn position, detailed in table 1 of the report, be noted;

(b) That the projected capital outturn position, detailed in table 2 of the report, be noted; and

(c) That the budget adjustments, detailed in section 4 of the report, be approved.

3 **Community Funding applications**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to various community funding applications.

At the meeting of this Policy Board held on 31 October it had been noted that in order to strengthen the oversight of funding applications a consolidated community funding report would be submitted each meeting cycle providing updated information and setting out recommendations for approval, as required, in relation to the Greenspaces, Villages Investment and Sustainable Communities Funds.

The report provided specific information relating to recent applications to and funding awarded from the Greenspaces, Parks and Play Areas Fund, Villages Investment Fund and Sustainable Communities Fund.

DECIDED:

(a) That the funding recommendations in relation to the proposed allocation of Sustainable Communities Funding detailed in section 4 and Appendix 1 of the report be approved;

(b) That the Greenspaces/Villages Investment funding awards made in terms of the authority delegated to the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure, to approve applications under the value of £5,000, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be noted;

(c) That the funding recommendations in relation to the Villages Investment Fund outlined in section 6 and Appendix 3 of the report be approved; and

(d) That it be agreed that £20,000 be allocated from the Villages Investment Fund to allow for staffing resource to be deployed to support the ongoing continuation of the Villages Investment Funding through 2024.

4 **Service Update Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to key service activities and providing an operational performance update on services and key projects and changes to service areas covered within the remit of this Policy Board.

Updates were provided in respect of local public protection, housing, community development and criminal justice activities and detailed specific projects and recent changes within each service area. It was highlighted that the Council had successfully applied for funding from the Scottish Government's Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund in respect of a project to deliver energy efficiency measures and low emission heating in eight terraced houses at Houston Place, Elderslie and been awarded £254,015. The project would enable the Council to assess whether similar works

could be rolled out to the wider housing stock.

Following discussion in connection with the application for above benchmark grant finance in respect of the Phase 1 of the newbuild housing at Howwood Road area, it was proposed and agreed that arrangements would be made to provide members of the Policy Board with an update of the outcome of the review undertaken by the Scottish Government prior to the next meeting.

The report stated that the Scottish Government had announced that with effect from from 1 January 2024 the Fixed Penalty Notice fine for fly-tipping offences, under the Environmental Protection Act, would increase from £200 to £500 and that this update to legislation had been made response to the Litter & Fly-tipping consultation responses submitted earlier in the year.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Head of Housing Services be authorised to accept grant funding of £254,015 awarded from the Scottish Government's Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund (SHNZHF) as detailed in section 3.8 of the report;

(b) That arrangements be made to provide members of the Policy Board, prior to the next meeting, with an update of the outcome of the review undertaken by the Scottish Government in respect of the application for above benchmark grant finance for Phase 1 of the newbuild housing at Howwood Road area;

(c) That it be noted that the Fixed Penalty Notice penalty for fly-tipping had increased from £200 to £500 in accordance with a Scottish Government amendment to the Environmental Protection Act; and

(d) That otherwise the report be noted.

5 **Social Housing Charter Performance: 2023/24 Half Year Update**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to the Scottish Social Housing Charter Performance 2023/24 half-year update.

The report intimated that Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords were required to submit an Annual Return relating to their performance to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) by the end of May each year. The half-year update report, a copy of which formed Appendix 1 to the report, provided a performance update for the first six months of 2023/24, detailed Renfrewshire's performance in terms of 18 of the 32 Charter indicators reported within the Annual Report and outlined specific areas where performance in terms of the indicators had improved, remained stable and/or dipped.

The SHR had issued, during October 2023, a consultation paper on the Single Regulatory Framework with the deadline for responses being 15 December 2023. The key elements and proposed actions affecting local authorities were outlined and a copy of the response submitted on behalf of the Council was attached as Appendix 2 of the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Social Housing Charter Performance 2023/24 half-year update report, attached as Appendix 1 of the report, be noted; and

(b) That the response, submitted on behalf of the Council, to the Scottish Housing Regulator on the consultation on the Single Regulatory Framework, a copy of which was attached as Appendix 2 of the report, be noted.

6 **Homelessness in Renfrewshire - Update**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to the nature and scale of homelessness both nationally and in Renfrewshire, current and emerging pressures, and actions taken to address the situation.

Reference was made within the report to the volume, trends and perceived reasons for the increase in homelessness both locally and nationally, resettlement programmes, asylum dispersal, the support for displaced persons and responses to emerging homeless/housing support and financial pressures.

Following discussion, in connection with the use of the Watermill Hotel, Paisley, to house asylum seekers the Head of Policy & Partnerships, intimated that arrangements would be made to provide members of the Policy Board with information regarding the number of asylum seekers who were required to share bedrooms at that property.

DECIDED:

(a) That the current and emerging local and national pressures that had resulted in an increase in homeless applications and demand for housing support and the potential impacts of these increases be noted; and

(b) That the progress made to date to meet the needs of those who were homeless be noted and that it also be noted that a further progress report would be submitted to the meeting of this Policy Board scheduled to be held on 21 May 2024.

7 **Creating a smoke free generation and tackling youth vaping - a consultation by the Department of Health & Social Care**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to the consultation exercise launched by the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) on creating a smoke free generation and tackling youth vaping.

The report intimated that the consultation on the proposed actions the UK Government and devolved administrations were considering to tackle smoking and youth vaping had closed on 6 December 2023. The key elements, aims and proposed actions were outlined within the report and a copy of the response submitted on behalf of the Council was appended to the report for homologation.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the consultation proposals be noted and the response submitted, a copy of which was appended to the report, be homologated; and
- (b) That a further report, providing an update on the implications for the Service and residents be submitted to a future meeting of this Policy Board when the relevant legislation had been finalised.

Minute of Meeting Police and Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 31 October 2023	15:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present: Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Robert Innes, Councillor Janis McDonald, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor Iain McMillan

Chair

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

G Hannah, Head of Climate, Public Protection and Roads; G Heaney, Climate and Public Protection Manager; M Hendry, Resilience and Deployment Manager (all Environment, Housing and Infrastructure); and E Gray, Senior Committee Services Officer and K O'Neill, Democratic Services Officer (both Finance & Resources).

Also In Attendance

G McCreadie, Chief Superintendent and W Graham, Area Commander (both Police Scotland); and D McCarrey, Area Commander and P Storrie, Group Manager (both Scottish Fire & Rescue Service).

Webcasting of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Sub-committee would be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast on the Council's internet site.

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 **Police Scotland Performance Report**

There was submitted a report by the Area Commander, Police Scotland, relative to service performance and activities in the Renfrewshire area during the period 1 April to 31 August 2023. The report summarised the key performance indicators and provided statistics relating to the specific key objectives detailed in Renfrewshire Policing Priorities 2023/26 and Police Scotland's Policing Priorities 2022/23.

The report provided updates in relation to Renfrewshire Policing Priorities 2023/26 of violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour; protecting vulnerable people; acquisitive and cyber/digital crime; serious and organised crime; road safety and road crime.

DECIDED: That the contents of report be noted.

2 **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Quarterly Performance Report - Qtr 2**

There was submitted a report by the Group Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) relative to SFRS performance and local fire and rescue service plan priorities in the Renfrewshire area during period 1 July to 30 September 2023.

The report provided updates in relation to Renfrewshire activity, accidental dwelling fires and casualties, unintentional injury and harm, deliberate fire setting, non-domestic fire safety and unwanted fire alarm signals.

DECIDED: That the contents of the report be noted.

3 **Local Issues**

In response to a request made by Councillor Iain McMillan in relation to deliberate fire raising in that ward area, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) agreed to provide more detail. SFRS reassured members that comprehensive plans were in place to mitigate and deal with potential increased activity due to bonfire night activity.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

Minute of Meeting Regulatory Functions Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 17 January 2024	10:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present: Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Janis McDonald, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Kevin Montgomery, Councillor Andy Steel

Chair

Councillor McNaughtan, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

D Campbell, Managing Solicitor (Licensing), E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer, D Cunningham and A Easdon, both Committee Services & Licensing Officers, S Kerr and K Marriott (for item 1 only) and E Graham (for items 2 to 6 only) all Licensing & Committee Assistants (all Finance & Resources).

Apologies

Councillors Hughes and Mullin.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor McNaughtan declared an interest in item 1(d) for the reason that he was a member of Castlegait Owners Association, the objector to the application. Councillor McNaughtan indicated that as he had declared an interest, he would withdraw from the meeting during any discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor McNaughtan declared an interest in item 1(f) for the reason that he had prior knowledge of the application which had been discussed at a meeting of the Paisley East & Whitehaugh Community Council which he had attended. Councillor McNaughtan indicated that as he had declared an interest, he would withdraw from the meeting during any discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor McNaughtan declared an interest in item 2 for the reason that one of the objectors was known to him. Councillor McNaughtan indicated that as he had declared an interest, he would withdraw from the meeting during any discussion and voting on the item.

Transparency Statements

There were no transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Order of Business

In terms of Standing Order 16, the Convener intimated that he proposed to alter the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting by considering item 1(e) of the agenda before item 1(d) of the agenda.

1 Grant of Short-term Let Licences - Personal Appearances

There were submitted the undernoted applications for grant of Short-term Let Licences. The applicants had been asked to appear personally for the first time together with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service who had submitted a representation received outwith the statutory timescale to application (a); Paula Van Dee who had submitted an objection received outwith the statutory timescale to application (b); the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service who had submitted a representation and Stephen Balmer, on behalf of Susan Balmer and Michael and Mila Nelson who had submitted objections to application (c); H Monaghan, on behalf of Castlegait Owners Association, who had submitted an objection to application (d); Alan Kier, Catherine Holmes, Derek and Margate-Anne Foster, James and Sharon Foster, Jemma Pate, E J Morrison, Sandra Kier, Stacey Boyce and Elizabeth Boyce who had submitted objections and Donald Cooper, Helen McMillan, Lynda Fyfe, Mandy Irvine, Margaret Jack and Hina Ahmed who had submitted objections received outwith the statutory timescale to application (e); and Robert Hill, Anouska Fairnie, Paisley East & Whitehaugh Community Council, Pascal Sagnier and Councillor Graeme Clark who had submitted objections to application (f):-

(a) Applicant: William Laird
Premises: Flat 0/1, 32 Ferguslie, Paisley

The Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service had withdrawn their representation to the application and that this application had been granted under delegated authority for a period of three years.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the application had been granted under delegated authority for a period of three years.

(b) Applicant: Elaine McLaren
Premises: 20A Cross Road, Paisley

Ms McLaren, the applicant, was invited into the meeting together with Ms Wolfe and Mr Dickie, her representatives. There was no appearance by or on behalf of Ms Van Dee who had submitted an objection received outwith the statutory timescale to the application.

The Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that Ms Van Dee was not in attendance at the meeting and explained the circumstances of the late resubmission of an earlier timeous objection which had not fully met legal requirements. Ms McLaren intimated that she had no objection to the late objection being taken into account when the application was being considered. The Convener proposed that the objection be taken into account when the application was being considered. This was agreed unanimously.

After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of three years. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of three years.

(c) Applicant: Ezeilo Limited
Premises: Flat 1/2, 11 Walker Street, Paisley

Ms Wolfe and Mr Dickie, on behalf of the applicant, were invited into the meeting. There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Balmer, on behalf of Mrs Balmer, or Mr and Mrs Nelson, the objectors to the application. The Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service had withdrawn their representation.

After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of three years. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of three years.

(d) Applicant: Chez Belle Limited
Premises: 35 Hamilton Crescent, Bishopton

Ms Robinson and Ms Boyd, on behalf of the applicant, were invited into the meeting together with Mr and Mrs D Foster, Mr and Mrs J Foster, Ms S Boyce and Ms E Boyce, objectors to the application and Mr Cooper, who had submitted an objection received outwith the statutory timescale to the application. Mr J Foster advised that he also represented Mr and Mrs Kier as they were unable to attend the meeting. There was no appearance by or on behalf of Ms Holmes, Ms Pate or E J Morrison, objectors to the application or Ms McMillan, Ms Fyfe, Ms Irvine, Ms Jack or Ms Ahmed, who had submitted objections received outwith the statutory timescale to the application.

On hearing the reasons for the lateness of the objection from Mr Cooper, the Convener proposed that the objection be taken into account when the application was being considered. This was agreed unanimously. Ms Robinson and Ms Lloyd had no objection to Mr Cooper's objection being taken into account when the application was being considered.

The Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised as to the reasons for the lateness of the objection from Ms Fyfe, Ms Irvine and Ms Jack. The Convener proposed that the objections from Ms Fyfe, Ms Irvine and Ms Jack be taken into account when the application was being considered. This was agreed unanimously. Ms Robinson and Ms Lloyd had no objection to Ms Fyfe's, Ms Irvine's and Ms Jack's objection being taken into account when the application was being considered.

The Convener proposed that the objections from Ms McMillan and Ms Ahmed be not taken into account when the application was being considered as neither objector was in attendance to provide reasons as to why the objections were received outwith the statutory timescale to the application. This was agreed unanimously.

After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Board adjourned to allow members to consider this application. The meeting was reconvened and the Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of three years. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of three years.

Sederunt

Councillor Montgomery left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor McNaughtan having previously declared interests in the following items, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Chair

Councillor McEwan, Depute Convener, assumed the Chair.

(e) Applicant: Tiny Nest Limited
Premises: 102 Castlegait, Paisley

Mr Qayyum, on behalf of the applicant, was invited into the meeting together with Mr Monaghan, on behalf of Castlegait Owners Association, the objector to the application. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Depute Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of three years. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of three years.

Declaration of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Councillor N Graham declared an interest in the following item of business for the reason that he had prior knowledge of the application which had been discussed at a meeting of the Paisley East & Whitehaugh Community Council which he had attended. Councillor N Graham indicated that as he had declared an interest, he would withdraw from the meeting during any discussion and voting on the item.

(f) Applicant: Boutique Home Style Limited
Premises: 27 Glasgow Road, Paisley

Ms Molari, the applicant, and Mr Lough, her representative, were invited into the meeting together with Mr Hill, accompanied by his partner Miss Holmes, and Councillor Clark, objectors to the application. There was no appearance by or on behalf of Ms Fairlie, Paisley East & Whitehaugh Community Council or Mr Sagnier, objectors to the application.

Following discussion, Mr Lough advised that his client wished to amend her application to read that the maximum number of occupants would be six and not nine as detailed on the application when submitted.

After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Depute Convener proposed that the application, as amended, be granted for a period of three years. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application, as amended, be granted for a period of three years.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1.15 pm and resumed at 1.50 pm.

Sederunt

Councillor N Graham rejoined the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

2 **Grant of Late Hours Catering Licence - Personal Appearance**

There was submitted the undernoted application for grant of a Late Hours Catering Licence. The applicant had been asked to appear personally for the first time together with Charles Henderson, David Slone, Graham Beveridge, Lorna Cooper, Cochran Dickie Solicitors on behalf of Manjit Singh, Merv Granger, Rahul Rao, Stephanie Smith, Suet Chan and UdayMadhav Samineri who had submitted objections to the application, Inderbir Singh who had submitted an objection received outwith the statutory timescale to the application, and the Head of Economy & Development Services, Renfrewshire Council who had submitted a representation received outwith the statutory timescale to the application:-

Applicant: Zehida Saeed

Premises: Unit C, 2 Rowan Street, Paisley

Activity: hot food takeaway

Operating hours: Sunday to Thursday - 11.00 pm to 12 midnight and Friday and Saturday - 11.00 pm to 2.00 am

Ms Saeed, the applicant, her husband Mr Saeed, and her solicitor Mr Shoaib, were invited into the meeting together with Mr Beveridge, Mr M Singh, Mr To, on behalf of Mr Chan and Mr Samineri, objectors to the application, Mr I Singh who had submitted an objection received outwith the statutory timescale to the application, and Mr Love, on behalf of the Head of Economy & Development Services, Renfrewshire Council, who had submitted a representation received outwith the statutory timescale to the application. There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Henderson, Mr Slone, Ms Cooper, Mr Granger, Mr Rao and Ms Smith, objectors to the application.

On hearing the reasons for the lateness of the objection from Mr I Singh, Mr Shoaib advised that it was his submission that the objection should not be taken into account when the application was being considered. The Depute Convener proposed that the objection from Mr I Singh be taken into account when the application was being considered. This was agreed unanimously.

On hearing the reasons for the lateness of the representation from the Head of Economy & Development Services, Mr Shoaib advised that it was his submission that the representation should not be taken into account when the application was being considered. The Depute Convener proposed that the representation from the Head of Economy & Development Services, Renfrewshire Council, be taken into account when the application was being considered. This was agreed unanimously.

Following discussion with his client, Mr Shoaib advised that his client wished to amend her application to include the following days and hours only: Friday and Saturday from 11.00 pm to 12.midnight.

After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Board adjourned to allow members to consider this application. The meeting was reconvened and the Depute Convener proposed that the application be refused. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be refused.

Chair

Councillor McNaughtan rejoined the meeting prior to the consideration of the following item of business and resumed the Chair.

3 Renewal of Late Hours Catering Licence

There was submitted the undernoted application for renewal of a Late Hours Catering Licence:-

Applicant: Select Service Partner UK Limited
Premises: Central Pier 18/22 Terminal Building, Glasgow Airport, Paisley
Activity: café servicing hot and cold food and drinks
Operating hours: Monday to Sunday - 11.00 pm to 5.00 am
Licence No.: LHC005

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of two years and that the applicant continue to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of two years and that the applicant continue to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Board resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part I of schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4 Grant of Taxi Driver's Licence

Under reference to item 5(a) of the Minute of the meeting of this Board held on 16 November 2023, consideration was resumed of the undernoted application for grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence:-

Applicant: Moloy Sarker

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of one year. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of one year.

5 **Grant of Private Hire Car Driver's Licence**

There was submitted the undernoted application for grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence:-

Applicant: Wasem Omran

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of one year. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of one year.

6 **Grant of Private Hire Car Operator's Licence**

There was submitted the undernoted application for grant of a Private Hire Car Operator's Licence:-

Applicant: Safiullah Masood

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of one year. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of one year.

Minute of Meeting

Education and Children's Services Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 18 January 2024	13:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present: Councillor Jennifer Adam, Councillor Fiona Airlie-Nicolson, Ms Mary Jane Bird, Provost Lorraine Cameron, Councillor Carolann Davidson, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Edward Grady, Councillor Gillian Graham, Councillor Anne Hannigan, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Alec Leishman, Councillor David McGonigle, Councillor Iain McMillan, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor Emma Rodden, Mr Ravinder Singh, Councillor Ben Smith

Chair

Councillor Rodden, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

J O'Neill, Director of Children's Services, J Calder, Head of Education, E Henry, Interim Head of Education, G Lyons, Interim Head of Service and J Trainer, Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice (all Children's Services); A Morrison, Head of Economy & Development Services (Chief Executive's); and M Conaghan, Head of Corporate Governance, N Young, Assistant Managing Solicitor (Litigation & Advice), R Conway, Finance Business Partner, E Gray, Senior Committee Services Officer and J Barron, Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Apology

Jack Nellaney.

Webcasting of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Board would be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast on the Council's internet site.

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring as at 10 November 2023

There was submitted a joint revenue & capital budget monitoring report by the Director of Finance & Resources and the Director of Children's Services for the period to 10 November 2023.

The report intimated that the projected revenue outturn at 31 March 2024 for Children's Services was an overspend of £2.074 million against the revised budget for the year. The projected capital outturn at 31 March 2024 for Children's Services was an underspend of £0.143 million.

DECIDED:

(a) That the projected revenue outturn position for Children's Services detailed in Table 1 of the report be noted, and that it be further noted that the forecast position was based on best estimates and confirmed government support at the time;

(b) That the projected capital outturn position for Children's Services detailed in Table 2 of the report be noted; and

(c) That the budget adjustments detailed in sections 4 and 6 of the report be noted.

2 Roll Projection Update

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the progress made in respect of the roll projection exercise carried out to evaluate future non-denominational education provision in Dargavel.

The report provided detail around the 10-year roll projection carried out by Edge Analytics on behalf of the Council which predicted a year-on-year increase to the pupil roll. To allow options for future provision to be properly assessed, Edge Analytics were asked to carry out a further projection to 2038. The extended exercise predicted a peak in 2033/34 for primary provision but a year-on-year fall thereafter. In terms of secondary provision, the roll was expected to peak in 2034/35 and to fall thereafter. Tables setting out the findings of the projection exercises were set out in sections 3 and 4 of the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that the 15-year roll projection exercise carried out by Edge Analytics illustrated that the demand for non-denominational primary provision would peak in 2033/34 and would fall year-on-year thereafter;

(b) That it be noted that the 15-year roll projection exercise carried out by Edge Analytics illustrated that the demand for non-denominational secondary provision would peak in 2034/35 and would fall year-on-year thereafter;

(c) That it be noted that all roll projection data with an extended timeline must be treated with a degree of caution and that the data would continue to be closely monitored; and

(d) That it be noted that a further update would be submitted to this Policy Board on the roll projection exercise for the whole learning estate.

3 **Catchment Consultation Dargavel Primary School**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the proposed consultation on the establishment of a new primary school within Dargavel Village. The proposed consultation was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The report sought approval for to consult on the site of the new school, an 8.5 acre site at the north end of Craigton Drive and approval to consult on revised catchment areas for the existing Dargavel Primary School and the proposed new school. Subject to approval by this Policy Board to proceed with the consultation, and subject to the outcome of the consultation, it was anticipated the new school would be constructed by 2027. Revised catchment areas would take effect on completion of construction.

Councillor Rodden, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved:

(a) That the Director of Children's Services be authorised to undertake a consultation, in line with the procedure required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, on the basis of the proposal paper set out in Appendix 1 to the report;

(b) That the Director of Children's Services, or another appropriate officer nominated by her, be authorised to take such action required to carry out that consultation through to completion, in accordance with the legal requirements;

(c) That it be noted that provision for denominational pupils within Dargavel Village would remain unchanged within the St John Bosco Primary School catchment;

(d) That it be noted that the catchment secondary school would be Park Mains High School; and

(e) That it be noted that it was anticipated that a report on the outcome of the consultation would be submitted to the meeting of this Policy Board to be held on 23 May 2024.

Councillor G Graham, seconded by Councillor McMillan, moved as an amendment that sections (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the motion be deleted and replaced with:

"Recognising the concerns of the Accounts Commission in its s102 report, and those of the wider community, as evident from the volume of correspondence received by elected members and the current online petition of over 500 signatures.

Alternative options appraisals will be carried out for additional Dargavel & Bishopton primary education provision before this Board further commits to the £millions being proposed. This will include a minimum of 3 alternative site locations and will include relevant figures and measurables including cost benefit analysis. These will be subject to a transparent public consultation prior to a decision being made at Education & Children's Services Board.

Options appraisals for Secondary education provision serving Dargavel & Bishopton will be carried out, an extension to Park Mains and a new build High School being at least 2 of those considered. Similarly these will include relevant figures and measurables including cost benefit analysis. These will be subject to a transparent public consultation prior to a decision being made at Education & Children's Services Board."

Adjournment

The Convener called for an adjournment to seek legal advice on the content of the amendment. The meeting adjourned at 1.23 pm and reconvened at 1.50 pm.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Davidson, Grady, G Graham, Leishman, McGonigle, McMillan and Smith.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Adam, Airlie-Nicolson, Ms Bird, Provost Cameron, Councillors Audrey Doig, Hughes, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden and Mr Singh.

The following member abstained: Councillor Hannigan.

10 members having voted for the motion, 7 members having voted for the amendment and 1 member having abstained, the motion was declared carried.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Director of Children's Services be authorised to undertake a consultation, in line with the procedure required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, on the basis of the proposal paper set out in Appendix 1 to the report;

(b) That the Director of Children's Services, or another appropriate officer nominated by her, be authorised to take such action required to carry out that consultation through to completion, in accordance with the legal requirements;

(c) That it be noted that provision for denominational pupils within Dargavel Village would remain unchanged within the St John Bosco Primary School catchment;

(d) That it be noted that the catchment secondary school would be Park Mains High School; and

(e) That it be noted that it was anticipated that a report on the outcome of the consultation would be submitted to the meeting of this Policy Board to be held on 23 May 2024.

4 **Dargavel Non-Denomination Primary School Demand: Assessment of Options for Additional Future Capacity**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the assessment of options for future non-denominational primary school provision in Dargavel Village.

The report provided a background to education provision around the Dargavel development, the roll projection exercises carried out by Edge Analytics on behalf of the Council and the decision taken in terms of expansion of primary school capacity. The Edge Analytics core model projected a peak demand of 1,131 by 2033/34 and this fell within the operational primary capacity of 1,230. Additional projection models were run by Edge Analytics at the request of the Council to also include limited live registration data and these suggested the potential for a higher peak of up to circa 1,400 to 1,500 pupils could be possible if the current registration trend continued and was sustained over the long term.

As such, there remained a level of risk and uncertainty around the eventual demand for school places. It had therefore been deemed prudent to consider scenarios which could lead to higher than anticipated demand for places together with options which were available to the Council to ensure it retained flexibility to deliver a response aligned to the specific circumstances which emerged. Three different scenarios were set out in section 4.1 of the report together with the options available to the Council, including permanent and temporary measures to increase capacity which could be deployed in isolation or combination to meet the specific needs, in section 4.2.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that the Edge Analytics tried and tested core model indicated a peak demand of 1,131 for planning purposes which was within the current planned operational primary capacity of 1,230;

(b) That it be noted that the current projection data also presented a number of potential upper scenarios that would require further intervention from the Council if they materialised;

(c) That it be noted that, as outlined in the report, the Council would be able to consider a number of options which could be deployed either in isolation or combined and had significant flexibility to respond appropriately at a future point in time should additional demand emerge, including a temporary peak in demand and or longer term

stabilised demand; and

(d) That it be noted that the roll projections were being continually monitored and updated and that regular updates would be provided to this Policy Board to enable timeous decisions to be made in future years as and when required.

5 **Education Scotland Inspection Bishopton Primary School**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the results of an inspection of Bishopton Primary School carried out by Education Scotland. The letter sent by Education Scotland to the parents and carers of pupils detailing the outcome of the inspection was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The report advised that an inspection of Bishopton Primary School had been carried out by Education Scotland in August 2023 with a focus on four quality indicators: leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; ensuring wellbeing, equity and inclusion; and raising attainment and achievement. The inspection report detailed four areas of key strength and two areas for further improvement.

DECIDED: That the key strengths in the Education Scotland report on Bishopton Primary School be noted and celebrated and the areas for further improvement be recognised.

6 **Whole Family Wellbeing Update**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to progress of the work by Renfrewshire's Children's Service Partnership (RCSP) to ensure that services and support were available to whole families at their time of need.

The report provided an overview of the RCSP, a group which was responsible for ensuring that services delivered to children, young people and their families in Renfrewshire were the best they could be. The progress made in terms of the three main aspects of the delivery plan for a whole family wellbeing approach, Family Wellbeing - Service Redesign; Request a Service Approach; and Building Capacity in Third Sector Organisations - was summarised in section 2 of the report.

DECIDED: That the content of the report be noted.

7 **Annual Report of the Fostering and Adoption Service 2022/23**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the annual report of the Fostering and Adoption Service for 2022/23 which was set out in full at Appendix 1 to the report.

The report covered the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023. During this period, 13 children and young people had a permanency plan considered by the panel and approved and on 31 July 2023 there were 75 fostering households approved by Renfrewshire. It was noted that the Fostering and Adoption Service was inspected by the Care Inspectorate in January 2023 and that the inspectors reported strengths in the services and awarded grades of good or very good for the services provided.

DECIDED: That the contents of the Fostering and Adoption Annual Report 2022/23, set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

8 **Scottish Child Interview Model and Bairns Hoose Pathfinder Update**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the work undertaken by the North Strathclyde Partnership to improve the way that investigations are carried out following a child reporting that they have been abused.

The report summarised the Bairns Hoose model of support and protection for children and detail was provided in terms of the Scottish Government's three-phase plan to support the development of the Bairns Hoose model. It was noted that, as part of phase one (Bairns Hoose Pathfinder Phase 2023-25), £6 million of funding had been allocated to support the establishment of six Bairns Hoose Pathfinder sites across Scotland. It was confirmed on 30 October 2023 that the North Strathclyde Partnership were successful in their application to become a Pathfinder and a summary of the work undertaken since and the next steps was provided in Section 4 of the report.

DECIDED: That the content of the report be noted.

9 **Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together – Progress Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the progress made towards implementing Renfrewshire's Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together Policy.

The report provided a background to the Policy, which was approved at the meeting of this Policy Board held on 20 May 2021, and summarised the activity to keep brothers and sisters together between June 2022 and May 2023. Of the 52 children and young people who were newly accommodated during this period and who had siblings, 26 were placed with at least one sibling and a review of the circumstances of the siblings placed separately showed that separation was necessary and appropriate.

DECIDED: That the progress of the second year of implementation of the Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together Policy be noted.

10 **Acronyms Glossary**

There was submitted for information a glossary detailing the acronyms commonly found in reports submitted to this Policy Board.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the glossary of acronyms would continue to be circulated with the agendas for future meetings of this Policy Board.

Minute of Meeting Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 22 January 2024	15:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present: Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Chris Gilmour, Councillor John Gray, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Robert Innes, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Janis McDonald, Councillor Kevin Montgomery

Chair

Councillor Andy Doig, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

J O'Neill, Director of Children's Services; A MacArthur, Director of Finance & Resources; L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Partnerships, A Morrison, Head of Economic & Development Services, R Smith, Climate Emergency Lead Officer and Lead Officer for Neighbour Disputes and L McGuinness, Communications Business Lead (Transformation) (all Chief Executive's); J Calder, Head of Education/Interim Education Officer (Children's Services); G Hannah, Head of Climate Change, Public Protection & Roads (Environment, Housing & Infrastructure); and C McCourt, Head of Finance & Procurement, M Boyd, Head of People & Organisational Development, M Conaghan, Head of Corporate Governance, P Murray, Head of Digital, Customer & Transformation Services, A McMahan, Chief Auditor, K Campbell, Assistant Chief Auditor, E Shields, Strategic Service Delivery Manager, A Black, Managing Solicitor (DPO), C MacDonald, Senior Committee Services Officer and D Cunningham, Committee Services & Licensing Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

A Kolodziej, Senior Manager, Azets.

Apology

Councillor Jennifer Adam.

Webcasting of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Board would be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site.

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 Summary of Internal Audit Reports for period 01 October to 31 December 2023

There was submitted a report by the Chief Auditor relative to the requirement in terms of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) that Internal Audit communicated the results of each engagement to the Board.

The appendix to the report detailed the category of assurance, service, assurance rating and gave recommended risk ratings for each engagement as either critical, important, good practice or service improvement. A summary of findings was also provided in relation to final reports issued for those engagements completed during the period 1 October to 31 December 2023.

The report intimated that in addition to the reports listed in the appendix, Internal Audit had an ongoing commitment to arrange corporate and service initiatives, progress information security matters in partnership with ICT and Legal Services, provide regular advice to officers, provide Internal Audit services to the associated bodies for which Renfrewshire Council was the lead authority and to OneRen and Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board, co-ordination of the Council's Corporate Risk Management activity and management of the Counter Fraud, Risk Management and Insurance team.

It was agreed that further information relating to payroll overpayments and planning processes would be circulated to members after the meeting.

DECIDED:

(a) That further information relating to payroll overpayments and planning processes would be circulated to members after the meeting; and

(b) That the summary of Internal Audit findings report finalised during the period 1 October to 31 December 2023 be noted.

2 **Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Progress and Performance for Period to 31 December 2023**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Auditor relative to Internal Audit and Counter Fraud performance between 1 October and 31 December 2023 in terms of the delivery of the Audit Plan for the year and outlining actual performance against targets set by the Director of Finance & Resources.

No formal performance targets for fraud investigation had been established as a major part of the team's work involved being the single point of contact for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Single Fraud Investigation Service and the Service Level Agreement for the work contained time targets for completing this work. It was noted that the types of fraud referrals received to date were wide-ranging and that the team's objective was to concentrate on investigating those referrals considered to contain the greatest fraud risk.

The report also detailed the progress made against local and national initiatives involving Internal Audit and the Counter Fraud Team during the period and advised that the Internal Audit Team and the Counter Fraud Team were currently working on a hybrid basis and were undertaking home/site visits when the need arose.

DECIDED: That the Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Team progress and performance from 1 October to 31 December 2023 be noted.

3 **Dargavel Primary School Independent Review recommendations – actions monitoring report**

Under reference to item 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this Board held on 6 November 2023, there was submitted a monitoring report by the Chief Executive relative to Dargavel Primary School.

The report advised that as part of the Council's wider governance arrangements, it had been agreed that the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board would monitor the actions identified by the Council and the progress achieved in addressing the requirements of the independent review. The report noted that a total of 24 actions were complete, 12 were on track to be completed and three had not yet commenced.

The report intimated that Council had been advised that the Controller of Audit had decided to use the reporting powers available to her under Section 102 (1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to bring this issue, and the action the Council was now taking in response to the Bowles report, to the attention of the Accounts Commission. The report was published on the Accounts Commission website on 4 January 2024 in advance of the Commission meeting on 11 January, where the report had been considered. It was noted that the Commission would inform the Council in due course of any findings it had made in relation to the report.

The Board was advised that there was a typographical error on the second page of the appendix at the last indicator (Update Edge Analytics Modelling), where the target completion date should have read January 2024 and not January 2023.

It was agreed that going forward the model for school sizes would be made available to the public on the Council's website.

It was also agreed that a report would be submitted to the Board at a future date scrutinising and reviewing the process of the Community Pulse survey which would be carried out in April/May 2024.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that there was a typographical error on the second page of the appendix at the last indicator (Update Edge Analytics Modelling), where the target completion date should have read January 2024 and not January 2023;

(b) That it be agreed that the model for school sizes would be made available to the public on the Council's website.

(c) That it be agreed that a report would be submitted to the Board at a future date scrutinising and reviewing the process of the Community Pulse survey which would be carried out in April/May 2024.

(d) That the update provided within the report and the Appendix in relation to the Council's response actions be noted.

4 **Scottish Information Commissioner – Annual Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the Scottish Information Commissioner's Annual Report for 2022/23.

The report intimated that the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) created a general right to obtain information from any designated Scottish public authority subject to limited exemptions.

It was noted that in total there had been 83,918 FOI requests in Scotland in 2022/23 which was an increase on 73,983 from the previous year. Renfrewshire Council received 1,495 FOI requests in 2022/23 compared to 1,258 during 2021/22. Across Scotland 0.6% of requests resulted in a requirement for review. The Council received 16 requirements for review in 2022/23 compared to 25 the previous financial year. The report advised that the Council had received one valid appeal for 2022/23 and a decision was still awaited from the Commissioner. The report advised that the low level of requirement for review compared to the volume of requests processed by the Council indicated that the Council continued to manage its responsibilities well.

DECIDED:

(a) That the content of the Scottish Information Commissioner's annual report be noted; and

(b) That the information on the number of FOI requests, reviews and appeals involving the Council as indicated in paragraph 3 of the report be noted.

5 **Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) Annual Report 2022/23**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman's (SPSO) Annual Report 2022/23.

The report intimated that the SPSO was the final stage for complaints about Councils, the National Health Service, housing associations, colleges, universities, prisons, most water providers, the Scottish Government and its agencies and departments and most Scottish authorities. Most complaints received by the SPSO related to the health sector with the local authority sector receiving the second highest number. No complaint details for specific organisations were included in the report. However, information was received separately from the SPSO relative to Renfrewshire Council which indicated that the number of complaints received by the SPSO was 35 compared with 43 in 2021/22.

The report noted that of the 35 complaints determined during the period, 22 were completed at the early resolution stage, 13 reached the advice stage and none had progressed to investigation. The SPSO would not generally consider a complaint unless the complainer had gone through the Council's complaints procedure fully. In 2022/23 the Council received 9,155 complaints compared with 9,193 in 2021/22.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Annual Scottish Public Services Ombudsman report for 2022/23 be noted; and

(b) That it be noted of the 35 complaints against Renfrewshire Council determined by the SPSO in 2022/23 none went to public investigation.

6 **Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland – Annual Report 2022/23**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the annual report by the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland for 2022/23.

The report provided details of the investigation of complaints about the conduct of councillors, members of devolved public bodies and MSPs and scrutiny of Scotland's Ministerial public appointments process.

The report advised that Ian Bruce had been appointed by the Scottish Parliament as Commissioner for a six-year period from 1 March 2023, following his temporary appointment on 20 April 2021. Revised governance arrangements had been introduced, transparency reporting was reinstated and a new rolling biennial business plan covering all of the Commissioner's office functions had been rolled out.

Nationally during 2022/23 the Commissioner received a total of 156 complaints, compared with 330 in 2021/22. The subject matter of the complaints was detailed in the report, however, it was highlighted that the largest category of complaints related to disrespect toward employees/public. No specific figures relative to Renfrewshire

Council were included in the Commissioner's report. However, information had been received separately from the Commissioner that, during the period covered by the report five complaints were received regarding Renfrewshire Council in 2022/23. Two of these related to disrespect towards the public/council employees, one related to disrespect towards other councillors and two other complaints related to general disrespect and a conflict of interest. The report noted that two of the complaints were dismissed at the admissibility stage and did not progress to investigation. Two of the complaints progressed to investigation where the Commissioner found the Councillors had not breached the Code of Conduct and the fifth complaint is still under an open investigation.

The report advised that the Head of Corporate Governance had delivered an annual update to Members on the Code of Conduct/Standards Commission, on 16 August 2023, as part of the Council's programme of events and Councillor development opportunities.

DECIDED:

(a) That the 2022/23 annual report by the Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland be noted; and

(b) That the actions taken in Renfrewshire in relation to the Code of Conduct and Members' development opportunities be noted.

7 Neighbour Disputes - Lead Officer Roz Smith

Under reference to item 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Board held on 22 August 2022, there was submitted a report by the Lead Officer relative to the Board's review of Neighbour Disputes.

The report advised of an updated timetable for the investigation; detailed a progress update; highlighted general neighbour disputes, anti-social behaviour, mediation and conflict resolution services; advised of the process of noise monitoring and multi-agency meetings; and advised of the next steps.

It was agreed that further information relating to number of anti-social orders; number of mediation referrals; current waiting time for the MATRON domestic noise assessment system; and evidence from the app being admissible in the law courts would be included in the next report to the Board.

DECIDED:

(a) That further information relating to number of anti-social orders; number of mediation referrals; current waiting time for the MATRON noise assessment system; and evidence from the app being admissible in the law courts would be included in the next report to the Board;

(b) That the progress contained within the report be noted; and

(c) That the updated timescale as outlined in Section 4 of the report be approved.

Minute of Meeting Economy and Regeneration Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 23 January 2024	10:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present: Councillor Alison Ann-Dowling, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Graeme Clark, Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Robert Innes, Councillor Janis McDonald, Councillor Jamie McGuire, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor Iain McMillan, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Andy Steel

In Attendance

A Morrison, Head of Economy & Development Services, B Walker, Programme Director (City Deal & Infrastructure), R Cooper, Economic Development Manager and E Shearer, Senior Manager for Regeneration and Place (all Chief Executive's); and V Howie, Finance Business Partner, J Lochans, Programme Manager and R Devine and C MacDonald, both Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources).

Webcasting of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Policy Board would be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site.

Chair

Councillor Steel, Convener, presided.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Transparency Statements

Councillor Hughes indicated that she had a connection to item 1 by reason of being a member of the Board of PACE Theatre. However, she indicated that she had applied the objective test and did not consider she had an interest to declare.

Councillor Ann-Dowling indicated that she had a connection to item 1 by reason of having a family member who attended PACE Theatre. However, she indicated that she had applied the objective test and did not consider she had an interest to declare.

Councillor Innes indicated that he had a connection to item 1 by reason of having a family member who attended PACE Theatre. However, he indicated that he had applied the objective test and did not consider he had an interest to declare.

1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report

There was submitted a joint revenue and capital budget monitoring report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance & Resources for the period 1 April to 10 November 2023.

The report stated that the projected outturn as at 31 March 2024 for those services reporting to this Policy Board was an underspend position of £0.033 million. The projected capital outturn for projects reporting to this Policy Board as at 31 March 2024 was a breakeven position against the revised budget for the year. Tables 1 and 2 within the report summarised the position and further analysis was provided in appendices to the report. The report also advised there had been revenue adjustments totalling £0.371 million processed since consideration of the previous report, and capital budget adjustments of £1.309 million. Details of the adjustments were provided within the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the projected revenue outturn position, detailed in Table 1 of the report, be noted;

(b) That the projected capital outturn position, detailed in Table 2 of the report, be noted; and

(c) That the budget adjustments, detailed in sections 4 and 6 of the report, be noted.

2 Renfrewshire Economic Profile (January 2024)

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the ninth edition of the Renfrewshire Economic Profile and a progress update in respect of the Glasgow City Region Investment Zone and recent investments announced in Renfrewshire.

The report indicated that the purpose of the Economic Profile was to describe and track local demographics and economic indicators for Renfrewshire on an annual basis. The data and analysis presented provided context and a baseline to assess the Renfrewshire economy over time and enabled members to track changes in the local economy through a set of key statistical indicators. The report made reference to a number of key indicators and provided associated statistical data via an economic indicator dashboard. It was noted, in terms of the profile, that as with previous versions of the report, Scotland and Glasgow City Region (GCR) had been selected as the most appropriate comparators. The report highlighted that the profile aligned with the Renfrewshire Economic Strategy, would be shared with stakeholders and become the key source of data relating to the performance of the local economy.

Section 4 of the report highlighted issues arising from the Economic Profile in terms of progress against a number of the Council's key objectives. Progress on the Glasgow City Region Investment Zone was detailed in section 5 of the report. Section 6 highlighted investment updates and advised that the University of Strathclyde had signed an agreement with Rolls-Royce to develop an innovation facility at the company's Inchinnan plant. The report intimated that, following the recent announcement of a multi-million pound fund in the Autumn Statement, the Centre of Process Innovation (CPI) initiated a plan to construct a new facility (the Oligonucleotide Manufacturing Innovation Centre of Excellence) which would be located adjacent to the medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre (MMIC) at AMIDS.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the January 2024 Renfrewshire Economic Profile update be noted; and
- (b) That the update on the Glasgow City Region Investment Zone (GCR IZ) and recent investments in Renfrewshire be noted.

3 **Cultural Infrastructure Programme Update**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the progress of the Council's Cultural Infrastructure Programme, being delivered on behalf of the Council by the City Deal & Infrastructure team, with project management expertise from the Council's Property Services team, and in the case of the Paisley Museum Project, by OneRen.

The report indicated that the Programme's investment in Paisley town centre would use the area's internationally significant cultural and heritage story to transform the future for visitors and events in Scotland. In addition, it was anticipated that the programme of works would result in increased footfall to the town centre, create new homes for top class cultural events, while preserving the heritage of the town, the Renfrewshire economy and Paisley town centre.

The report also provided updates in terms of the progress of specific projects contained within the Cultural Infrastructure Programme. As indicated in previous reports, the Programme had experienced significant impact from global events, including the pandemic and war in Ukraine, resulting in economic challenges, particularly in the construction industry. The report intimated that completion of projects within the Programme was central to the recovery and inclusive growth of the Renfrewshire economy and Paisley town centre. As a result of the scale of the construction phase and these global issues, Programme projects had been re-

baselined and construction completion dates for venues altered. Details of these revisions were provided within the report. Notwithstanding these challenges the Cultural Infrastructure Programme had seen the opening of both Paisley Town Hall and Paisley Learning & Cultural Hub with Paisley Town Hall successfully hosting several events since opening, including the Royal National Mòd. The programme of work continued into 2024 with Paisley Arts Centre the next venue scheduled for completion, ahead of the flagship Paisley Museum. A summary of various areas being considered in relation to the operating model for Paisley Museum were outlined in sections 7.9 to 7.14 of the report. The report also outlined other works included in the wider programme including external sports and public realm and the successful TH.CARS2 regeneration scheme. The report highlighted the St James' Playing Fields project and advised that further regeneration and community engagement activities would be undertaken for this area.

DECIDED:

(a) That the progress and current stage of construction of the projects outlined within the report be noted; and

(b) That the areas being considered in relation to the operating model of Paisley Museum, as outlined in sections 7.9 to 7.14 of the report be noted.

4 **Steeple Buildings Kilbarchan - Update**

Under reference to the item 13 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 4 May 2023 there was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Steeple Buildings, Kilbarchan.

At the meeting of the Council held on 4 May 2023, it had been agreed that a report be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of this Policy Board setting out investment proposals and timescales for the refurbishment of Steeple Hall. A programme of consultation and potential development opportunities had also been agreed at that meeting.

The report proposed that an initial repair programme for the Steeple Buildings, which dealt with all immediate and urgent external repairs, plus some additional high-level repairs, and reinstatement of electricity and water supplies internally be undertaken. Stakeholder engagement undertaken to date, the findings of the condition survey undertaken in respect of the Buildings, recommended that a detailed options appraisal be undertaken and detailed the position in terms of potential future funding sources.

In view of the anticipated volume of work which required to be undertaken it was proposed and agreed that the reference within the recommendations to submitting a viable, preferred long-term use for the buildings for consideration at the next appropriate Board be deleted and replaced with submission of a viable, preferred long-term use for the buildings to a future meeting of the appropriate Policy Board.

DECIDED:

(a) That the initial repair programme for the Steeple Buildings, which would deal with all immediate and urgent external repairs, plus some additional high-level repairs, and reinstate the electricity and water supplies internally at an estimated cost of £310,000+VAT be approved; and

(b) That the Head of Economy & Development be authorised to continue the stakeholder engagement exercise and to commission an options appraisal for the Steeple Buildings with the aim of submitting a viable, preferred long-term use for the buildings to a future meeting of the appropriate Policy Board.

Minute of Meeting Planning and Climate Change Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 23 January 2024	13:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present: Councillor Jennifer Adam, Councillor Alison Ann-Dowling, Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Chris Gilmour, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Anne Hannigan, Councillor Bruce MacFarlane, Councillor Kenny MacLaren, Councillor Jamie McGuire, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor John Shaw, Councillor Ben Smith

Chair

Councillor Paterson, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

A Morrison, Head of Economy & Development, D Love, Chief Planning Officer, S Boyle, Engineer (Development Control), K Dalrymple (Development Plans & Housing Strategy Team Leader), J McCafferty, Planner, G McCracken, Development Standards Manager, R Smith, Climate Emergency Lead Officer, J Weir, Senior Planning Officer and A Williamson, Strategy & Place Manager (all Chief Executive's); G Hannah, Head of Climate, Public Protection & Roads, and G Heaney, Climate & Public Protection Manager (both Environment, Housing & Infrastructure); and R Graham, Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Regulatory Services), V Howie, Finance Business Partner and R Devine and C MacDonald, both Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources).

Webcasting of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Policy Board would be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site.

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report

There was submitted a revenue and capital budget monitoring report by the Director of Finance & Resources for the period 1 April to 10 November 2023.

The report stated that the projected outturn as at 31 March 2024 for all services reporting to this Policy Board was an overspend position of £0.035 million. It was noted that there were no capital budget projects reporting to this Policy Board. Summaries were provided over the relevant services in the tables within the report, together with further analysis. It was noted that the projected outturn was based on current available information and assumptions made by service budget holders. It was also highlighted that no budget adjustments had been processed since the previous meeting of this Policy Board.

DECIDED: That the projected revenue outturn position, detailed in Table 1 of the report be noted.

2 Renfrewshire's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to Renfrewshire's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.

The report referred to the climate emergency declared by the Council in June 2019 and the Plan for Net Zero approved in August 2022, which committed to working towards net zero by 2030 for both the Renfrewshire area as a whole and Renfrewshire Council as an organisation. This target covered all aspects of energy use within the Renfrewshire wide area. Reducing carbon emissions was one of the principle measures to address climate change and a key priority for all local authorities. Renfrewshire Council recognised that climate change would have far reaching effects on Renfrewshire's economy, its residents and its environment and was determined to lead by example in tackling the causes of climate change.

During 2022, the Scottish Parliament had passed the Local Heat and Energy Efficiencies (Scotland) Order 2022 which placed a statutory duty on local authorities to publish a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and Delivery Plan, which required to be updated at intervals of no more than 5 years. LHEES were designed to be local authority-led, however stakeholder engagement and partnership working were key as the Strategy addressed all building stock at a local authority wide level. Renfrewshire's LHEES designated the most appropriate energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation options on an authority-wide basis, broken down into area-based schemes, or zones, with a focus on two key priorities of reducing carbon emissions and alleviation of fuel poverty. The LHEES was also evidence-driven, based on local data and local knowledge and took into account assets and infrastructure within each local area to ensure potential solutions were tailored to the different issues, opportunities and needs across Renfrewshire's communities. It was expected that the LHEES would act as a prospectus for government funding and external investment using a robust evidence base and place-based approach. The report advised that Renfrewshire's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy was to be submitted to the meeting of the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board to be held on 24 January 2024 for approval and that, due to the links with

climate change, the strategy had been submitted to this Policy Board for noting.

DECIDED:

(a) That the high-level information available at this time on Renfrewshire's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy be noted; and

(b) That it be noted that updates would be submitted to meetings of the relevant Policy Boards on the further development of the Delivery Plans, outlining potential opportunities and proposed projects, activities and interventions.

3 **Tree Preservation Order Requests**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to requests to apply Tree Preservation Order (TPO) designations to sites across Renfrewshire.

The report advised that the TPO requests submitted had been considered in terms of the relevant legislation, namely, Section 160 of The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, and within the procedures set out in the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2011. The report provided updates in relation to the TPO agreed at the meeting of this Policy Board held on 7 November 2023 in respect of the site at Inchinnan Road, Renfrew and referred to requests received for the designation of TPOs in respect of the sites known as (i) land to the south of Stanely Reservoir, Paisley; (ii) trees at Potterhill Avenue, Paisley; and (iii) trees at St. Marks Church, Paisley and advised that assessments had been undertaken, details of which were provided within the report, together with recommendations that TPOs be made and the factors taken into consideration.

DECIDED:

(a) That the tree preservation orders in respect of the sites known as (i) land to the south of Stanely Reservoir, Paisley; (ii) trees at Potterhill Avenue, Paisley; and (iii) trees at St. Marks Church, Paisley be confirmed and that officers make the orders public and register them with the Land Registry for Scotland; and

(b) That it be noted that the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) designation agreed at the meeting of this Policy Board held on 7 November 2023 in respect of the site at Inchinnan Road, Renfrew was currently subject to a period of public consultation and would be submitted to a future meeting of this Policy Board for confirmation or otherwise of the order.

4 **Developer Contributions (Education) - key metrics**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to progress achieved in preparing a new developer contributions policy for education requirements arising from new housing development in Renfrewshire.

The report stated that developers and other applicants for planning permission were often expected to offset the impact of their proposed development by making contributions, including in kind and financial, towards necessary social infrastructure

in the local area or other local services. These contributions were sometimes referred to as “planning obligations” and were usually entered into in accordance with section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, and were commonly referred to as section 75 Agreements. They were often used where a planning condition or another form of legal agreement would not be appropriate to address the impact of the development. The principle of such planning obligations was guided by legislation which set out that such agreements required to meet a series of tests to be enforceable against the landowner, including being necessary to make a proposal acceptable and reasonable in terms of scale in relation to the proposal. These tests were detailed in Scottish Planning Circular 3/2012. In Renfrewshire, the adopted Local Development Plan (LDP2; 2021) set out a policy, Policy I8, for developer contributions. The Council now intended to develop a more detailed set of policy guidance for planning applicants of new residential development. This new policy intended to offer specific guidance for all future housing development in the area that was yet to receive planning permission and would be linked to individual school catchments and to individual housing sites already identified within LDP2/Housing Land Audit and those yet to be identified. It was highlighted that such a policy would make clear that contributions were intended to offset the impact of the new housing development and not to overcome other existing deficiencies that might exist in terms of school provision locally and that subsequent policy guidance would be developed for other developer contributions towards other community infrastructure.

The report intimated that it was anticipated that a proposed draft policy for developer contributions for education requirements arising from new housing development in Renfrewshire would be submitted to a future meeting of this Policy Board and provided an outline of the key metrics which would be required to support the policy, which included the likely number of pupils generated by the new housing sites in Renfrewshire; how much capacity existed in each school/by catchment; where the additional housing demand came from, the identified supply; what would be a reasonable level of contribution to negotiate for each additional pupil generated by the new housing, above capacity thresholds; the scale of residential development site at which the developer contribution policy became applicable. The Convener encouraged members to engage with officers during the development stage of the Policy to ensure that it was fit for purpose and advised that following consideration, and, if appropriate, approval of the draft Policy it would be published for a period of stakeholder consultation. The report highlighted that members would be informed, in due course, of the outcome of the consultation.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the key metrics outlined in the report and their implications for any future policy to be applied to applicable planning applications be considered; and
- (b) That the key metrics as indicated within the report be noted as being an indicative basis on which to prepare a draft Developer Contributions (Education) policy for Renfrewshire Council.

5 **Planning Applications**

There were submitted reports by the Chief Executive relative to the following applications for planning permission that required to be determined by the Board.

5(a) 23/0112/PP: Erection of residential development comprising of eight flats with associated access, parking, bin store, boundary treatment and landscaping at 74 Fulbar Street, Renfrew, PA4 8PB by Mr B Lees.

Reference was made to the presentation made at the previous meeting of this Policy Board in respect of the application, the visit to the site of the proposed development undertaken on 9 January 2024 and the supplementary report of handling.

Councillor Shaw indicated that he was of the view that the application should be refused, outlining the main reasons for adopting this position.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1.40 pm and reconvened at 1.50 pm.

Councillor McGuire, seconded by Councillor Smith moved that the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report.

Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Nicolson, moved as an amendment that the application be refused as the height, scale and design of the proposal was considered to have detrimental impact on the amenity of the neighbouring residential properties through the loss of privacy, loss of daylight sunlight, the density, height of the building, waste management and scale and was therefore contrary to Policy P1 of the adopted Local Development Plan. In addition, the proposal was considered to be contrary to Policy 17 of the Local Development Plan in relation to energy efficiency, contrary to Policy 14 of the National Planning Framework 4 and would have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the place and be contrary to Policy 9 of the National Planning Framework 4 in relation to the demolition.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the motion: Councillors Ann-Dowling, Andy Doig, Gilmour, N Graham, Hannigan, MacFarlane, McGuire, McNaughtan and Smith.

The following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Adam, K MacLaren, McGurk, Nicolson, Paterson and Shaw.

9 members having voted for the motion and 6 members having voted for the amendment, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: That the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report.

5(b) 23/0283/PP - Erection of a secondary school and community campus with associated external amenities including landscaping, access, parking and sports pitches at 111-113 Renfrew Road, Paisley PA3 4DY by Renfrewshire Council.

J Weir, Planner made a presentation relative to the proposal.

Councillor McLaren, seconded by Councillor Andy Doig, moved that consideration of the application be continued pending a site visit.

Councillor Paterson, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved as an amendment that the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the

report.

On the roll being called , the following members voted for the motion: Councillors Andy Doig and K MacLaren.

The following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Adam, Ann-Dowling, Gilmour, N Graham, Hannigan, MacFarlane, McGuire, McGurk, McNaughtan, Nicolson, Paterson, Shaw and Smith.

2 members having voted for the motion and 13 members having voted for the amendment, the amendment was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: That the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report.

5(c) 23/0504/LB - Installation of replacement windows and door, solar panels, two ramps, railings, cladding and a false floor. Erection of extension; formation of window and door openings; renewal of roof; stonework repairs; internal alterations and landscaping works at S Block, University of West of Scotland, Storie Street Paisley PA1 2BX by the University of the West of Scotland.

J McCafferty, Planner, made a presentation relative to the proposal.

In terms of Standing Order 59 Councillor Paterson, moved that the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report.

5(d) 23/0505/PP - Installation of replacement windows and door, solar panels, two ramps, railings, cladding and a false floor. Erection of extension; formation of window and door openings; renewal of roof; stonework repairs; internal alterations and landscaping works at S Block, University of the West of Scotland, Storie Street, Paisley PA1 2BX by the University of the West of Scotland.

J McCafferty, Planner, made a presentation relative to the proposal.

In terms of Standing Order 59 Councillor Paterson, moved that the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report.

Minute of Meeting Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 24 January 2024	10:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present: Councillor Jennifer Adam, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Jacqueline Cameron, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Carolann Davidson, Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Chris Gilmour, Councillor John Gray, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Janis McDonald, Councillor Iain McMillan, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Will Mylet, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Ben Smith, Councillor Andy Steel

Chair

Councillor Campbell, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

G McNeil, Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure, G Hutton, Head of Operations & Service Development, G Hannah, Head of Climate, Public Protection & Roads, N Drummond, Lead Officer (Environmental Co-ordination), G Darbyshire, Senior Service Delivery Manager, C Halliday, Technical Manager, G Heaney, Climate and Public Protection Manager, M Higginbotham, Transportation & Development Manager, J McElhinney, Fleet & Sustainable Transport Manager, L Ward, Waste & Recycling Manager, J Wallace, Infrastructure & Assets Manager, B Wilson, Neighbourhood Services Manager, S Heron, Assistant Transportation & Development Manager and C Doogan, Energy Team Leader (all Environment, Housing & Infrastructure); A Morrison, Head of Economy & Development Services and A Johnson, Principal Estates Surveyor (both Chief Executive's); and L Dickie, Finance Business Partner, R Cameron, Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy Officer, E Gray Senior Committee Services Officer and J Barron, Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Webcasting of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Board would be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast on the Council's internet site.

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report

There was submitted a joint revenue and capital budget monitoring report by the Directors of Finance & Resources and Environment, Housing & Infrastructure as at 10 November 2023.

The report stated that the projected revenue outturn as at 31 March 2024 for all services reporting to this Policy Board was an overspend position of £3.160 million against the revised budget for the year. The projected capital outturn as at 31 March 2024 for projects reporting to this Policy Board was a breakeven position against the revised budget for the year. Summaries were provided around the relevant services in the tables within the report, together with further analysis.

It was noted that there had been revenue budget adjustments to the value of £0.195 million and capital budget adjustments to the value of £0.684 million since the last report, with summaries of these provided in sections 4 and 6 of the report.

Councillor Gilmour, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved:

(a) That the Director of Environment, Housing and Infrastructure be instructed to refer the relevant overspend service areas within the ILE Board to the Audit Risk and Scrutiny Board for investigation;

(b) That the projected revenue outturn position, as detailed in Table 1 in the report, be noted;

(c) That the projected capital outturn position, as detailed in Table 2 in the report, be noted; and

(d) That the revenue and capital budget adjustments, as detailed in sections 4 and 6 of the report, be noted.

This was agreed unanimously.

Councillor Nicolson proposed that a report be submitted to this Policy Board in the first instance to provide members with a detailed analysis of the financial position of the services under the remit of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Director of Environment, Housing and Infrastructure be instructed to refer the relevant overspend service areas within the ILE Board to the Audit Risk and Scrutiny Board for investigation;

(b) That a report be submitted to this Policy Board in the first instance to provide members with a detailed analysis of the financial position of the services under the remit of the Board;

(c) That the projected revenue outturn position, as detailed in Table 1 in the report, be noted;

(d) That the projected capital outturn position, as detailed in Table 2 in the report, be noted; and

(e) That the revenue and capital budget adjustments, as detailed in sections 4 and 6 of the report, be noted.

2 **Service Update Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to key service activities.

The report provided updates since the previous meeting of this Policy Board held on 8 November 2023 in respect of key areas delivered by services within Environment, Housing & Infrastructure, which were within the remit of this Policy Board, including climate change; Team Up to Clean Up; operation and infrastructure service arrangements; fleets, roads and transportation; neighbourhood services; waste and recycling services; and #YouDecide.

DECIDED: That the content of the report, including the charges and arrangements set out in sections 7.5 and 9.5 of the report, be approved.

3 **Fees and Charges**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to proposed changes to charges for Roads & Waste Services.

The report set out a number of proposed changes to charges as part of the Council's financial sustainability strategy including the introduction of a bin exchange and contaminated bin uplift charges together with revised bulk waste collection charges and roads construction consent fees. It was proposed that these charges would become effective from 1 April 2024.

Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Burns, moved:

(a) That the waste charges, as set out in section 3 of the report, be approved; and

(b) That the roads charges, as set out in section 4 of the report, be approved.

Councillor Gilmour, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved as an amendment:

(a) That the waste charges, as set out in sections 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of the report, be approved with the status quo to remain in relation to bulk waste collection charges; and

(b) That the roads charges, as set out in section 4 of the report, be approved.

On the roll being called the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Davidson, Devine, Gilmour, Gray, J MacLaren, McDonald, McMillan and Smith.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillor Adam, Burns, J Cameron, Campbell, Audrey Doig, McNaughtan, Mylet, Nicolson and Steel.

9 members having voted for the motion and 8 members having voted for the amendment the motion was declared carried.

DECIDED:

(a) That the waste charges, as set out in section 3 of the report, be approved; and

(b) That the roads charges, as set out in section 4 of the report, be approved.

4 Changes to Upholstered Furniture Collection, Storage and Disposal

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to changes to the way in which the Council was required to collect, store and handle furniture that was classified as “Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating” (WUDS) to comply with legislation.

The report set out that new guidance was due to come into force which would ban WUDS containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) from being sent to landfill. As a result, on becoming waste, these items of upholstered domestic seating would be covered by existing legislative requirements specific to wastes containing POPs, which meant they must be incinerated. Producers and holders of waste would also be required to undertake all reasonable efforts to avoid, where feasible, contamination of non-POPs waste with POPs waste. The implications to the Council arising from the new legislation were set out in section 4 of the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that the introduction of new guidance would change how the Council would be required to collect, store and dispose of waste furniture classified as WUDS;

(b) That the arrangements, set out in section 4.4 of the report, in relation to accepting WUDS furnishings at Household Waste Recycling Centres be approved;

(c) That the introduction of a bulky waste collection charge for WUDS materials, as set out in section 4.5 of the report, be approved; and

(d) That it be noted that a report detailing the operational and financial implications of the required changes would be submitted to a future meeting of this Policy Board.

5 **Streetlighting Service Update**

Under reference to item 14 of the Minute of the Council meeting held on 28 September 2023, there was submitted a report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to the current priorities and challenges faced by the streetlighting service.

The report made reference to a decision taken at the meeting Council held on 28 September 2023 that an update report on the operation of the street lighting service be submitted to this Policy Board and that a Renfrewshire-wide street lighting survey to assess areas and levels of risk be carried out. Information was provided on the Streetlighting Service Review, phase one of which had been completed and resulted in the integration of the service under the Roads Service, and the short, medium and long-term improvements which had been identified.

DECIDED:

(a) That the progress with regard to the streetlighting review and quick wins already achieved be noted; and

(b) That it be noted that future updates would be brought to this Policy Board through the Service Update Reports to provide details of progress with identified improvements.

6 **Renfrewshire's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to Renfrewshire's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) which was set out in full at Appendix 1 to the report.

The report outlined the Local Heat and Energy Efficiencies (Scotland) Order 2022 which placed a statutory duty on Local Authorities to publish a LHEES and Delivery Plan, and required these to be updated at intervals of no more than five years. The Renfrewshire LHEES desired outcomes were detailed in section 4 of the report and the next steps were set out in section 5.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

(b) That the high-level information available at this time on Renfrewshire's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy be noted; and

(c) That it be noted that updates would be provided to the relevant Policy Boards on the further development of the Delivery Plans, outlining potential opportunities and proposed projects, activities, and interventions.

7 **Disposal of Land for Substation - CWRR Infrastructure Supplies**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the disposal of property, required for the creation of an electricity substation within the land acquired for the Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside (CWRR) project. The site was identified in a plan attached as an appendix to the report.

The report provided background to the CWRR project which included the construction of an opening bridge which crossed the River Clyde which would require power supplies for smaller parts of infrastructure on both sides of the river to operate each swinging section. A suitable location on Meadowside Street, Renfrew had been identified to house the required substation and it was noted that the location was within land acquired by the Council to facilitate the delivery of the CWRR project.

It was proposed that the identified site be declared as surplus and then sold to SP Distribution Plc as per the provisional terms and conditions set out in section 5 of the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the property outlined in red on the plan attached as an appendix to the report (The "Property") be declared as surplus to requirement;

(b) That the sale of the Property to SP Distribution plc, along with servitude rights for appropriate connections, subject to the City Deal and Infrastructure Programme Director agreeing their exact location and subject to the terms and conditions detailed within section 5 of the report be approved; and

(c) That the Head of Corporate Governance, in conjunction with the City Deal & Infrastructure Programme Director, be authorised to make minor alterations to the documents, (being the Disposition and Plan to reflect the final agreed substation orientation) and to conclude the disposal of the Property as detailed in the report.

8 **Shop Premises at 2-6 Skye Crescent, Paisley**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the lease of a property at 2-6 Skye Crescent, Paisley to M&D Green Dispensing Chemist Limited. The site was identified in a plan attached as an appendix to the report.

The report advised that M&D Green Dispensing Chemist Limited had held the lease of 2-4 Skye Crescent for over 20 years and now sought to lease the neighbouring vacant property, 6 Skye Crescent, with a view to combining it with their existing premises to create a fully refurbished, modern pharmacy.

The proposed terms and conditions of the lease were set out in full at section 3.4 of the report.

DECIDED: That the lease of 2-6 Skye Crescent, Paisley to M&D Green Dispensing Chemist Limited, based on the terms and conditions set out in the report, be approved.

9 **Shop Premises at 32a Broomlands Street, Paisley**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to a proposed lease at 32a Broomlands Street, Paisley. The site was identified in a plan attached as an appendix to the report.

The current lease holder, E Muir, became the tenant at the property in December 2023 on a six-month lease and sought to extend this to provide more security of tenure. The property operated as an NHS wig supplier and hair replacement specialist. The proposed terms and conditions for the lease were set out in full in the report.

DECIDED: That the lease of 32A Broomlands Street, Paisley to E Muir, based on the terms and conditions set out in the report, be approved.

10 **Unit 7 Abercorn Industrial Estate, Paisley**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to a proposed lease at Unit 7 Abercorn Industrial Estate, Paisley. The site was identified in a plan attached as an appendix to the report.

The property had been vacant since March 2023 and was marketed for lease with a closing date for offers set for 6 December 2023. Five offers were received to lease the unit and, following their assessment, it was recommended that the offer from J Naismith for a three-year lease at a rent of £5,000 per annum be accepted as per the terms and conditions set out in the report.

DECIDED: That the lease of Unit 7 Abercorn Industrial Estate, Paisley to J Naismith, based on the terms and conditions set out in the report, be approved.

11 **Unit 8 Abercorn Industrial Estate, Paisley**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to a proposed lease at Unit 8 Abercorn Industrial Estate, Paisley. The site was identified in a plan attached as an appendix to the report.

The property had been vacant since March 2023 and was marketed for lease with a closing date for offers set for 6 December 2023. Four offers were received to lease the unit and, following their assessment, it was recommended that the offer from R.E.D Pest Control Ltd for a five-year lease at a rent of £10,000 per annum be accepted as per the terms and conditions set out in the report.

DECIDED: That the lease of Unit 8 Abercorn Industrial Estate, Paisley to R.E.D Pest Control Limited., based on the terms and conditions set out in the report, be approved.

12 **Land at Arkleston Road, Renfrew**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to land at Arkleston Road, Renfrew. The site was identified in a plan attached as an appendix to the report.

The report advised that the land was currently undeveloped and the owner was proposing to sell the land for the development of an electric car charging facility. An enquiry by the landowner had been submitted around whether the Council would agree to remove the burden restricting the use to sports and leisure from the title in order to facilitate the sale for the charging facility use. In exchange for removing the burden the payment of a capital sum of £10,000 to Renfrewshire Council together with any reasonable legal expenses incurred by the Council had been agreed.

DECIDED: That it be agreed that the historic title burden attached to the land at Arkleston Road, as identified in the location plan attached to the report, be removed.

13 **Two Lease Renewals (Renfrewshire Council as Tenant), Tannahill Centre, Blackstoun Road, Ferguslie, Paisley**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the renewal of two leases at the Tannahill Centre, Blackstoun Road, Paisley where the Council was a tenant.

The report advised that the Council held two leases at The Tannahill Centre, Blackstoun Road, Paisley from landlord The New Tannahill Centre Limited and that these were premises for Ferguslie pre-five Nursery and Ferguslie Library. The provisional terms and conditions for the leases were set out in full in the report.

DECIDED: That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to renew the leases of the nursery and library premises at the Tannahill Centre, Paisley on terms outlined in the report subject to such other conditions as may be considered necessary to protect the interests of Renfrewshire Council.

Minute of Meeting Local Review Body.

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 30 January 2024	14:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present: Councillor Chris Gilmour, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson

Chair

Councillor Paterson, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

K Dalrymple, Development Plans & Housing Strategy Team Leader (Independent Planning Adviser to the Local Review Body) (Chief Executive's); and R Graham, Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Regulatory Services) (Independent Legal Adviser to the Local Review Body) and R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer (Clerk to the Local Review Body) (both Finance & Resources).

Webcasting of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Board would be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast on the Council's internet site.

Apologies

Councillor N Graham and Councillor MacFarlane.

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 Procedure Note

The Convener summarised the procedure to be followed at the meeting of the Local Review Body (LRB), a copy of which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

2 LRB01.24

Consideration was given to a Notice of Review in respect of the Planning Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the erection of two chalets at East Fulwood Farmhouse, Houston Road, Inchinnan, Renfrew PA4 9LX. (22/0706/PP).

The following materials were before members in relation to the Notice of Review:

- (i) the Planning Authority's Submissions which included the report of handling, accompanying documents and decision notice; and
- (ii) the Notice of Review, together with supporting statement and productions submitted by the applicant.

The Independent Legal Adviser advised, as a preliminary matter, that a statutory consultee, SEPA, had submitted an objection to the proposal when it had been first considered which had not subsequently been withdrawn and accordingly that SEPA were, for the purposes of this review, considered an interested party. The Independent Legal Adviser advised further that SEPA, as an interested party, were notified of the review and was entitled to make further representations if it so wished. The LRB was advised the SEPA had made no further representation but that it had confirmed, following receipt of the Notice of Review, that its original objection was maintained.

The Independent Legal Advisor also took the opportunity to inform members that in the event the LRB was minded to grant planning permission in respect of the proposal, that, due to there being an objection from a statutory consultee, notification would require to be given to Scottish Ministers so that they may consider whether to call in the review for determination.

The Convener confirmed that the LRB required to decide whether it had sufficient information before it to make a decision on this matter or whether further procedure was required to allow the LRB to determine LRB01.24/Planning Application 22/0706/PP. It was agreed that the LRB had sufficient information before it to reach a decision. The Convener then advised that the LRB required to determine the application in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan, including any supplementary guidance, unless material considerations indicated otherwise.

Councillor Paterson proposed that the application be refused as the proposed development is at a location susceptible to flooding. It does not therefore align with the precautionary and avoidance principles advocated by the sustainable flood risk management framework and is contrary to Policy 22 of National Planning Framework 4, Policy 13 of the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan and the associated New Development Supplementary Guidance on Delivering the Infrastructure Strategy

(Flooding and Drainage) for the reasons detailed in the report of handling. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That LRB 01.24/Planning Application 22/0706/PP be refused for the undernoted reason

1. The proposed development is at a location susceptible to flooding. It does not therefore align with the precautionary and avoidance principles advocated by the sustainable flood risk management framework and is contrary to Policy 22 of National Planning Framework 4, Policy I3 of the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan and the associated New Development Supplementary Guidance on Delivering the Infrastructure Strategy (Flooding and Drainage).

3 **LRB02.24**

Consideration was given to a Notice of Review in respect of the Planning Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the erection of a single-storey dwellinghouse and associated works at a site on the eastern boundary of No 2 Johnshill, East End, Lochwinnoch. (23/0179/PP).

The following materials were before members in relation to the Notice of Review:

(i) the Planning Authority's Submissions which included the report of handling, accompanying documents and decision notice; and

(ii) the Notice of Review, together with supporting statement and productions submitted by the applicant.

The independent Legal Adviser advised, as a first preliminary matter, that a number of interested parties had submitted representations in respect of the proposal when it had first been considered and that following receipt of the Notice of Review, those interested parties had been contacted and advised that their representations would be considered by the LRB when determining the application and also invited to make further representations if they so wished. Thereafter a number of the interested parties had submitted further representations. On reading these further representations it could be considered that they may contain matters that were not before the appointed officer when the appointed officer made the original decision. The independent Legal Adviser advised that there was a general prohibition, applicable to both the individual seeking review and any other party to the review, including interested parties, against introducing any matter that was not before the appointed officer when the original decision was made. It was highlighted that this restriction did not however apply where the new matter had been raised pursuant to a requirement or an entitlement to have regard to the development plan or any other material consideration. Consequently, the LRB required to determine in relation to the further representations received from the interested parties whether they contained any new matters that were not before the appointed officer when they made their decision and, if so, whether these had been raised pursuant to a requirement or an entitlement to have regard to the development plan or any other material consideration.

Consequently, the LRB required to determine in relation to the further representations received from the interested parties whether they contained any new matters that were not before the appointed person when they made their decision and, if so,

whether these had been raised pursuant to a requirement or an entitlement to have regard to the development plan or any other material consideration.

A secondary preliminary matter highlighted by the independent legal adviser was that the applicant had provided further clarity of mitigatory measures in respect of the proposal relating to tree loss. Members of the LRB were advised that should they be of the opinion that they did not have sufficient expertise to assess these mitigatory measures then it could instruct written submissions from a person suitably qualified to make that assessment, for example the Council's Tree and Woodland Officer.

The Convener proposed that the LRB did not have sufficient information before it to make a decision on this matter and that further procedure was required to allow the LRB to determine LRB02.24/Planning Application 22/0179/PP. It was proposed and agreed unanimously that the LRB direct that further written submission be provided no later than 19 February 2024 by (i) the appointed officer setting out what matters within the further representations that the officer considers were not before them when they made their decision and also, in the appointed officer's view, whether these had been raised pursuant to a requirement or an entitlement to have regard to the development plan or any other material consideration; (ii) by the Council's Tree and Woodland Officer providing an assessment of the proposal and the revised construction techniques in relation to the potential impact on trees, specifically whether there would be a loss of trees as a result of the development or construction techniques or whether there would be an impact on the trees which would result in future loss of trees. This was agreed unanimously. In addition, it was proposed and agreed that an unaccompanied visit to the site of the land to which the review related be arranged.

The local Review Body was reminded that it was still the role of the LRB, notwithstanding the direction for written submissions, to determine what matters were new and whether they had been raised pursuant to a requirement or an entitlement to have regard to the development plan or any other material consideration.

DECIDED: That consideration of LRB02.24/Planning Application 22/0179/PP be continued pending:

(i) receipt of written submissions no later than 19 February 2024 from (a) the appointed officer setting out what matters within the further representations received from interested parties that the appointed officer considers were not before them when they made their decision and also, in the appointed officers' view, whether these had been raised pursuant to a requirement or an entitlement to have regard to the development plan or any other material consideration and (b) the Council's Tree and Woodland Officer providing an assessment of the proposal and the revised construction techniques in relation to the potential impact on trees, specifically whether there would be a loss of trees as a result of the development or construction techniques or whether there would be an impact on the trees which would result in future loss of trees; and

(ii) an unaccompanied visit to the site of the land to which the review related being arranged.

Minute of Meeting Regulatory Functions Board

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 01 February 2024	10:00	Remotely by MS Teams,

Present: Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Janis McDonald, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Sam Mullin, Councillor Andy Steel

Chair

Councillor McNaughtan, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

R Graham, Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Regulatory Services), E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer, J Barron, Committee Services Officer, A Easdon, Committee Services & Licensing Officer and R McCallum, Licensing & Committee Assistant (all Finance & Resources).

Recording of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Convener intimated that this meeting would be recorded for subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site.

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Order of Business

In terms of Standing Order 16, the Convener intimated that he proposed to alter the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting by considering item 6(c) of the agenda before item 6(a) of the agenda.

1 **Renewal of Late Hours Catering Licences**

There were submitted the undernoted applications for renewal of Late Hours Catering Licences:-

(a) Applicant: Select Service Partner Limited
 Premises: Bird & Signet, Departures Lounge, Glasgow Airport, Paisley
 Activity: hot and cold drinks and food
 Operating hours: Monday to Sunday - 11.00 pm to 5.00 am
 Licence No.: LHC002

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of two years and that the applicant continue to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of two years and that the applicant continue to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours.

(b) Applicant: Select Service Partner Limited
 Premises: Spinning Jenny, Domestic Arrivals, Glasgow Airport, Paisley
 Activity: hot and cold drinks and food.
 Operating hours: Monday to Sunday - 11.00 pm to 5.00 am
 Licence No.: LHC004

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of two years and that the applicant continue to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of two years and that the applicant continue to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours.

(c) Applicant: Select Service Partner Limited
 Premises: Burger King, Glasgow Airport Airside, Paisley
 Activity: hot and cold drinks and food.
 Operating hours: Monday to Sunday - 11.00 pm to 5.00 am
 Licence No.: LHC093

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of two years and that the applicant continue to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of two years and that the applicant continue to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours.

(d) Applicant: Select Service Partner Limited
 Premises: M&S Simply Food, Terminal 1, Glasgow Airport, Paisley
 Activity: supermarket
 Operating hours: Monday to Sunday - 11.00 pm to 5.00 am
 Licence No.: LHC119

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of two years and that the applicant continue to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of two years and that the applicant continue to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours.

2 **Variation of Taxi Operator's Licence - Personal Appearance**

There was submitted the undernoted application for variation of a Taxi Operator's Licence. The applicant has been asked to appear personally for the first time:-

Applicant: Robert McCue

Variation: exception to policy and standard condition 22

Licence No.: TX075

The Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Regulatory Services) advised that this application had been withdrawn.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the application had been withdrawn.

3 **Surrender and Re-issue of Taxi Operator's Licence - Personal Appearance**

There was submitted the undernoted application for the surrender and re-issue of a Taxi Operator's Licence. The applicants had been asked to appear personally for the first time:-

Present Operator: William Mottram

Proposed Operator: Antonio Esposito

Licence No.: TX188

Mr Mottram and Mr Esposito, the applicants, both joined the meeting by telephone call. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the application be granted.

DECIDED: That the application be granted.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Board resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part I of schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4 **Variation of Taxi Operator's Licence - Personal Appearance**

There was submitted the undernoted application for variation of a Taxi Operator's Licence. The applicant has been asked to appear personally for the first time:-

Applicant: Andrew Barr
 Variation: exception to policy and standard condition 22
 Licence No.: TX169

Mr Barr, the applicant, joined the meeting by telephone call. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the application be granted and that Mr Barr be exempt from operating a vehicle which was wheelchair accessible and either custom built taxis such as FX4s or Metro Cabs or alternatively MPVs of a type approved by the Council.

DECIDED: That the application be granted and that Mr Barr be exempt from operating a vehicle which was wheelchair accessible and either custom built taxis such as FX4s or Metro Cabs or alternatively MPVs of a type approved by the Council.

5 **Grant of Private Hire Car Operators' Licences - Personal Appearance**

There were submitted the undernoted applications for grant of Private Hire Car Operators' Licences. Applicant (b) had been asked to appear personally for the first time:-

(a) Hazem Abdalghader

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of one year. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of one year.

(b) Mhd Eid Albashash

Mr Albashash, the applicant, joined the meeting by video call. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of one year. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of one year.

(c) Shakeel Ahmed Ghafoor Begum

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of one year. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of one year.

6 **Grant of Taxi Drivers' Licences - Personal Appearances**

Under reference to item 5(b) and item 5(c) of the Minute of the meeting of this Board held on 16 November 2024, respectively, consideration was resumed of applications (b) and (e) for grant of Taxi Drivers' Licences and there were submitted applications (a), (c), (d) and (f) for grant of Taxi Drivers' Licences. Applicants (b) and (e) had been asked to appear personally for the second time and applicants (c), (d) and (f) had been asked to appear personally for the first time together with Police Scotland who had submitted representations to applications (d), (e) and (f):-

(a) Przemyslaw Andziul

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of one year. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of one year.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.45 am and reconvened at 11.15 am.

(b) Sadegh Fathali Javin

Mr Javin, the applicant, joined the meeting by video call and advised that he wished to amend his application to apply for the grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the application, as amended, be granted for a period of one year. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application, as amended, be granted for a period of one year.

(c) Hussam Alhawamdah

The Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Regulatory Services) advised that this application had been withdrawn.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the application had been withdrawn.

(d) Gerald Adams

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Adams, the applicant. Sergeant Robertson joined the meeting by video call, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted a representation to the application. The Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Regulatory Services) advised that Mr Adams had intimated that he was unwell and would not be attending the meeting and had requested that consideration of his application be continued to a future meeting of the Board. The Convener proposed that consideration of the application be continued and that the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued and that the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

(e) Hasan Babelli

Mr Babelli, the applicant, joined the meeting by telephone call. Sergeant Robertson, remained in the meeting by video call having not left following consideration of the previous item of business, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted a representation to the application. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that consideration of the application be continued and that the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued and that the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

(f) Mostafa Zamani

Mr Zamani, the applicant, joined the meeting by video call and advised that he wished to amend his application to apply for the grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence. Sergeant Robertson, remained in the meeting by video call having not left following consideration of the previous item of business, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted a representation to the application. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the application, as amended, be granted for a period of one year. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application, as amended, be granted for a period of one year.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12.20 pm and reconvened at 1.30 pm.

Sederunt

Councillor McEwan was not in attendance when the meeting reconvened.

7 Grant of Private Hire Car Drivers' Licences - Personal Appearances

Under reference to item 7(h) of the Minute of the meeting of this Board held on 7 September 2024, consideration was resumed of application (a) for grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence and there were submitted applications (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) for grant of Private Hire Car Drivers' Licences. Applicant (a) had been asked to appear personally for the fourth time and applicants (b), (c) and (d) had been asked to appear personally for the first time together with Police Scotland who had submitted a representation received outwith the statutory timescale to application (a); an objection received outwith the statutory timescale together with a further letter in relation to that objection to application (b); an objection to application (c); and a representation to application (d):-

(a) Mohammad Akram

Mr Akram, the applicant, and Mr Hassan, his nephew, both joined the meeting by telephone call together with Sergeant Robertson, who joined the meeting by video call, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted a representation received outwith the statutory timescale to the application.

On hearing the reasons for the lateness of the representation, the Convener proposed that the representation be taken into account when the application was being considered. This was agreed unanimously.

After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Board adjourned to allow members to consider this application. The meeting was reconvened and the Convener proposed that the application be refused. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be refused.

(b) Abid Shah

Mr Shah, the applicant, joined the meeting by video call. Sergeant Robertson, remained in the meeting by video call having not left following consideration of the previous item of business, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted an objection received outwith the statutory timescale to the application together with a further letter in relation to that objection.

On hearing the reasons for the lateness of the objection, the Convener proposed that the objection be taken into account when the application was being considered. This was agreed unanimously.

The Senior Solicitor (Licensing) advised that the further letter, submitted along with the objection, contained details of matters which could only be considered if the interests of justice so required.

On hearing further from Police Scotland and from Mr Shah in response, the Convener proposed that the interests of justice required that this further letter also be considered. This was agreed unanimously.

After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Board adjourned to allow members to consider this application. The meeting was reconvened.

Councillor McNaughtan, seconded by Councillor Steel, moved that the application be granted for a period of one year.

Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor McDonald, moved as an amendment that the application be refused.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Audrey Doig, N Graham, Hughes, McDonald and Mullin.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors McNaughtan and Steel.

5 members having voted for the amendment and 2 members having voted for the motion, the amendment was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: That the application be refused

Sederunt

Councillor McDonald left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

(c) Sajjad Hussain

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Hussain, the applicant. Sergeant Robertson, remained in the meeting by video call having not left following consideration of the previous item of business, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted an objection to the application. As a preliminary matter, Sergeant Robertson requested

that consideration of this application be continued to a future meeting of the Board. The Convener proposed that consideration of the application be continued and that the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued and that the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3.20 pm and reconvened at 3.25 pm.

(d) Mohammad Shafi

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Shafi, the applicant. Sergeant Robertson joined the meeting by video call, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted a representation to the application. The Convener proposed that the application be considered in Mr Shafi's absence. This was agreed unanimously. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of one year. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of one year.

(e) Gagan Singh

The Convener proposed that the application be granted until 16 October 2024. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted until 16 October 2024.

(f) Faisal Muhammed

The Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Regulatory Services) advised that this application had been granted under delegated authority for a period of one year.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the application had been granted under delegated authority for a period of one year.

8 Renewal of Private Hire Car Drivers' Licences - Personal Appearances

There were submitted the undernoted applications for renewal of Private Hire Car Drivers' Licences. The applicants had been asked to appear personally for the first time together with Police Scotland who had submitted representations to the applications:-

(a) Ahmad Jabbar

Mr Jabbar, the applicant, and his representative Mr Anwar both joined the meeting by video call together with Sergeant Robertson, who also joined the meeting by video call, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted a representation to the application. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of two years. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of two years.

(b) Talal Chaudhry

Mr Chaudry, the applicant, joined the meeting by telephone call. Sergeant Robertson, remained in the meeting by video call having not left following consideration of the previous item of business, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted a representation to the application. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Board adjourned to allow members to consider this application. The meeting was reconvened and the Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of two years. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of two year.

Minute of Meeting

Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 07 February 2024	10:00	Microsoft Teams Meeting,

Present: Councillor Stephen Burns, Mrs Elaine Knox, Councillor Iain McMillan

Chair

Councillor Burns, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

G Thomson, Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Advice) and E Gray, Senior Committee Services Officer (both Finance & Resources).

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Appeals Panel resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

1 **Gryffe High School - Appeal against Refusal of a Placing Request - 24/01**

Consideration was given to an appeal against the refusal of a placing request for S1 at Gryffe High School.

All participants had been invited to attend virtually by means of MS Teams. L Mitchell, Senior Solicitor (Finance & Resources), and K Christie, Headteacher of Gryffe High School and A Gallagher, Resource Manager (both Children's Services), all representing the Education Authority, were in attendance. The appellant in relation to appeal 24/01, was also in attendance.

G Thomson, Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Advice) outlined the procedure to be followed in hearing the appeal.

L Mitchell then presented the case for the Education Authority and led evidence from K Christie and A Gallagher in relation to the circumstances surrounding the refusal of the placing request.

The appellant was then invited to present their case.

Each side having been given the opportunity to cross examine and sum up, were thanked for their attendance and left the hearing.

DECIDED: That one or more of the grounds of refusal specified in Section 28(A) (3) and (3A) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 existed and that in all the circumstances, it was appropriate to confirm the Education Authority's decision and that the appeal be not upheld. This was agreed unanimously.

Minute of Meeting

Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 08 February 2024	10:00	Via Teams Platform,

Present: Councillor Fiona Airlie-Nicolson, Councillor Alison Ann-Dowling, Provost Lorraine Cameron, Councillor Graeme Clark, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Chris Gilmour, Councillor Edward Grady, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Robert Innes, Councillor Bruce MacFarlane, Councillor David McGonigle, Councillor Sam Mullin, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor John Shaw

Chair

Councillor Shaw, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

A MacArthur, Director of Finance & Resources; J Bowles, Corporate Procurement Manager, R Park, Interim Corporate Procurement Manager, G Beattie, Strategic Commercial Category Manager, A Donaldson, Strategic Commercial Category Manager, B Bradley, Assistant Category Manager, L McGuinness, Communications Business Lead (Transformation), S Ford, Senior Procurement Specialist and A Ross and L Bishop, both Procurement Advisers (all Chief Executive's); C Dalrymple, Head of Facilities & Property Services and L Feely, Head of Housing Services, (both Environment, Housing & Infrastructure); M Boyd, Head of People & Organisational Development, M Conaghan, Head of Corporate Governance, C McCourt, Head of Finance & Procurement, P Murray, Head of Digital, Transformation & Customer Services, G Innes, Senior Service Delivery Manager (Customer & Digital Operations), E Shields, Business Services Manager, R Davison, Category Manager (ICT), R Cree, OD & Workforce Planning Manager, L Currie, Managing Solicitor (Projects), F Farrell, Technical Unit Programme Manager, E Simpson, Principal HR & OD Adviser, J Lochans, Programme Manager, E Gray Senior Committee Services Officer and J Barron, Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources); and S Docherty, Senior Contracts Officer (Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership).

Webcasting of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Policy Board would be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast on the Council's internet site.

Additional Item

The Convener intimated that there was an additional item of business in relation to Contract Award Paisley Grammar School Community Campus (PGSCC) – Principal Contractor (PC) Enabling Works (RC-CPU-21-247) which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Convener, being of the opinion that the item, which is dealt with at item 17 below, was urgent authorised its consideration.

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 Investment Review Board

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Investment Review Board held on 22 November 2023, a copy of which forms the Appendix to this document.

DECIDED: That the Minute be noted.

2 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring as at 10 November 2023

There was submitted a revenue and capital budget monitoring report by the Director of Finance & Resources as at 10 November 2023.

The report stated that the projected revenue outturn as at 31 March 2024 for all services reporting to this Policy Board was an overspend position of £1.989 million against the revised budget for the year. The projected capital outturn as at 31 March 2024 for projects reporting to this Policy Board was a breakeven position against the revised budget for the year. Appendices to the report provided detailed analysis of expenditure and budget adjustments were listed at sections 4 and 6 of the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the projected revenue outturn position, detailed in Table 1 in the report, be noted;

(b) That the projected capital outturn position, detailed in Table 2 in the report, be noted; and

(c) That the budget adjustments, detailed at sections 4 and 6 of the report, be noted.

3 **Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring – Council Overview as at 10 November 2023**

There was submitted an update report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to an overview of revenue and capital budget expenditure for the Council as at 10 November 2023.

Tables 1 and 2 of the report detailed that the projected revenue outturn position for all services as at 31 March 2024 was an overspend of £8.767 million and the projected capital outturn position for all services was an underspend of £0.143 million, split between General Fund services and the Housing Revenue Account. Further analysis was detailed in the appendices to the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the projected revenue outturn position detailed in Table 1 of the report be noted, considering that the forecast position was based on best estimates at that point in time;

(b) That the substantial risks to the budget position as outlined in section 3 of the report be noted;

(c) That the projected capital outturn position detailed in Table 2 of the report be noted; and

(d) That the prudential indicators detailed in section 6 of the report be noted.

4 **Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Fund Budgets 2024/25**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the estimated funding available for disbursement during 2024/25 from the Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds.

The report indicated that income from both Common Good Funds was used to fund ongoing projects and commitments made previously by this Policy Board and its predecessors. In addition, an annual allocation was to be made to the relevant Local Partnerships with delegated authority to disburse grants to local organisations that had applied for grant aid and/or to use the funding to support appropriate projects. A forecast income and expenditure statement for both Common Good Funds, including the cost of recurring projects, was appended to the report.

The report advised that discussion had taken place with the Cherrie Centre to assess their considerable reliance on Common Good Funding to maintain their early years service. An agreement had been reached which would allow a staged and manageable reduction in Common Good support over a number of years, details of which were provided in section 3.8 of the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the 2024/25 budget allocations to Local Partnerships be approved as follows:

- (i) Renfrew Local Partnership - £84,600 from the Renfrew Common Good Fund;
- (ii) Paisley East Local Partnership - £12,400 from the Paisley Common Good Fund;
- (iii) Paisley North, West & Central Local Partnership - £10,900 from the Paisley Common Good Fund;
- (iv) Gleniffer Local Partnership - £10,200 from the Paisley Common Good Fund;

(b) That the continued funding of project awards, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved; and

(c) That the proposed future year allocations to the Cherrie Centre, as outlined in section 3.8 of the report, be approved.

5 **Business Services Accounts for Write Off**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to a proposed write-off of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates accounts for sums over £10,000 where recovery was no longer viable.

The value of the debt to be written off was £131,316.97 and a breakdown of this figure was provided at Appendix 1 of the report.

DECIDED: That the write off of £131,316.97, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

6 **Business Services Performance Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the performance of key business services functions, including revenue collection and benefit administration, for the period ending 28 December 2023.

The report provided an update on the funding and expenditure position for Discretionary Housing Payments and the Scottish Welfare Fund. Appendices to the report provided information on revenue collection and key performance indicators.

DECIDED: That the content of the report be noted.

7 **Customer Services Performance Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to performance of key customer services functions including call centre, face-to-face and digital support for customers to December 2023.

The report provided an update on the overall contact centre call handling volumes and indicated that face-to-face services continued in Renfrewshire House. Details of customer volumes were provided in the report. The report advised that demand for Digital Services remained high and provided an update on the level of online transactions being completed.

DECIDED: That the content of the report be noted.

8 People Strategy – Ongoing implementation of key priorities (Health and Wellbeing Plan ‘2024 - 2029’; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan, and HR&OD Policy Review)

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the ongoing implementation of the Council's People Strategy priorities: ‘Our People Our Future 2021-2026’.

The report provided background to the People Strategy and detailed the work which had been carried out around development of a new Health and Wellbeing Plan, a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan and the ongoing HR&OD Policy Review Plan. These plans were set out at Appendices 1 to 3 of the report respectively.

Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Nicolson, moved:

(a) That the Health and Wellbeing Plan ‘2024 - 2029’; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan; and the revised HR&OD Policy, as set out at Appendices 1-3 of the report respectively, be approved; and

(b) That it be noted that regular progress reports would be provided to the Corporate Management team and annual progress reports would be presented to Elected Members.

Councillor Ann-Dowling, seconded by Councillor Clark, moved as an amendment:

(a) That the Health and Wellbeing Plan ‘2024 - 2029’ and the revised HR&OD Policy, as set out at Appendices 1 and 3 of the report respectively, be approved;

(b) That approval of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan be continued to a future meeting to allow officers to present a more complete plan, taking recognition of the concerns raised by members of this Policy Board; and

(c) That it be noted that regular progress reports would be provided to the Corporate Management team and annual progress reports would be presented to Elected Members.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Ann-Dowling, Clark, Gilmour, Grady, Graham, McGonigle and Mullin.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillor Airlie-Nicolson, Provost Cameron, Councillors Audrey Doig, Innes, MacFarlane, Nicolson and Shaw.

On a vote being taken, 7 members voted for the motion and 7 members voted for the amendment. There being an equality of votes being cast the Convener used his second and casting vote in favour of the motion. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Health and Wellbeing Plan ‘2024 - 2029’; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan; and the revised HR&OD Policy, as set out at Appendices 1-3 of the report respectively, be approved; and

(b) That it be noted that regular progress reports would be provided to the Corporate Management team and annual progress reports would be presented to Elected Members.

9 **Facilities and Property Services - Service Update Report**

There was submitted an update report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to the operational performance of Facilities Management (Hard and Soft Services, including Building Services) and Property Services as delivered by Environment, Housing & Infrastructure since the last meeting of this Policy Board.

DECIDED: That the content of the report be noted.

10 **Council Tax – Second Home Levy Charge Policy**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to a proposed change to the council tax charges for second homes in Renfrewshire.

The report set out the definition of second homes and the current policy in respect of the level of council tax charge levied on them in Renfrewshire which equated to a 10 percent discount. From 1 April 2024, the Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023 would come into force which would afford Local Authorities the discretion to charge up to a 100 percent increase for dwellings classed as second homes.

The report proposed that a policy setting out the Council's position in relation to imposing a 100 percent levy on second homes, which amended the 10 percent discount currently available be implemented. The proposed policy was appended to the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the content of the report be noted; and

(b) That the Council Tax Second Home Levy Charge Policy, set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

11 **Civic Hospitality**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to consideration of requests received by the Provost for civic hospitality from organisations for specific events as detailed within the report.

The report proposed the type and cost of civic hospitality to be provided in respect of each civic event and sought authorisation for the Director of Finance & Resources, in consultation with the Provost, to make the necessary arrangements to provide civic hospitality, or in the case of events that had already been arranged, to homologate the action taken by the Head of Corporate Governance, in consultation with the Provost, to provide civic hospitality as detailed below:-

- (i) St John's Church - civic reception for their Christmas tree competition - £350;
- (ii) Paisley Sinfonia - civic reception for their 60th anniversary - £1,500;
- (iii) Paisley Mod - celebratory event for the volunteers - £1,500; and
- (iv) MND Scotland - table at their charity ball - £900

The report advised that the budget provision for 2023/24 for civic hospitality (including international links) was £46,460. Should the above be agreed, and taking account of previous decisions, the remaining balance would be approximately £6,400.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the provision of hospitality, as detailed in section 1 of the report, for Paisley Sinfonia and the MND Charity Ball be approved;
- (b) That the Director of Finance & Resources be authorised, in consultation with the Provost, to make the necessary arrangements for the agreed provision of hospitality;
- (c) That the action taken in respect of the civic reception for the Paisley Mod Volunteers event be homologated; and
- (d) That the action taken by the Head of Corporate Governance in terms of his delegated authority in respect of the St John's Christmas Tree competition be noted.

12 **Contract Award: MTC Roller Shutters Maintenance and Repair (RCCPU- 23-202)**

There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Finance & Resources and Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to the award of a services contract for MTC Roller Shutter Maintenance and Repair to Aardee Security Shutters Limited.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a contract for MTC Roller Shutters Maintenance and Repair (RC-CPU-23-202) to Aardee Security Shutters Limited;
- (b) That it be noted that the initial contract period was three years, with the Council having the option to extend the contract period for up to 12 months on two separate occasions, subject to contract performance;
- (c) That it be noted that the contract was anticipated to commence 1 April 2024 and that the actual commencement date would be confirmed in the Council's letter of acceptance to Aardee Security Shutters Limited; and
- (d) That the maximum contract value of up to £750,000 excluding VAT for the contract period, including use of the extension periods, be authorised with any orders to carry out works being by the Council as and when required.

13 **The Provision of Community Based Mental Health Services incorporating Distress Brief Interventions Services Level 2 (RC-CPU-23-193)**

There was submitted a joint report by the Director of Finance & Resources and the Chief Officer, Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership relative to the award of a contract for the provision of Community Based Mental Health Services incorporating Distress Brief Interventions Services Level 2 to RAMH.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a contract for the Provision of Community Based Mental Health Services incorporating Distress Brief Interventions Services Level 2, reference RC-CPU-23-193, to RAMH (Company Registration Number SC141458);

(b) That it be noted that the commencement date of the contract was anticipated to be 9 March 2024 for a contract period of 2 years, with the option to extend for up to 12 months on two occasions and that the actual commencement date for this contract would be confirmed in the Council's letter of acceptance; and

(c) That the contract value of up to a maximum of £1,556,000 (£389,000 per annum) excluding VAT for the contract period, including use of the extensions be approved.

14 **Supply of Biomass Fuel**

There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Finance & Resources, Environment, Housing & Infrastructure and Children's Services relative to the award of a contract for the Supply of Biomass Fuel to AMP Biomass Fuel Ltd.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a contract for the Supply of Biomass Fuel to AMP Biomass Fuel Ltd;

(b) That it be noted that the intended call-off start date was 1 March 2024 with the initial call-off period being 24 months;

(c) That it be noted that the award of this contract was subject to the completion of the Crown Commercial Services National Fuels 2 Framework Agreement Order Form; and

(d) That it be noted that the cumulative spend made under this contract would be up to a maximum value of £300,000 excluding VAT.

15 **Contract Award: Housing Stock Condition Surveys (RC-CPU-22-331)**

There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Finance & Resources and Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to the award of a services contract for Housing Stock Condition Surveys to The John Martin Partnership (Quantity Surveyors) Limited t/a JMP Construction & Property Consultants.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a contract for Housing Stock Condition Surveys, reference RC-CPU-22-331, to The John Martin Partnership (Quantity Surveyors) Limited t/a JMP Construction & Property Consultants (SC282319);

(b) That a service period of three years with the option to extend for a further period of one year on two separate occasions be approved;

(c) That it be noted that the contract start date was 15 April 2024 and that any changes to these dates would be confirmed in the Council's letter of acceptance; and

(d) That a maximum contract value of up to £1,500,000.00, excluding VAT for the contract period, including use of the extension periods, for all task orders made under this contract be approved.

16 **St James' Playing Field Modular Pavilions (RC-CPU-22-237)**

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the award of a contract for St James' Playing Field Modular Pavilions to SKW Construction Ltd.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a contract for St James' Playing Field Modular Pavilions to SKW Construction Ltd;

(b) That the contract sum of £2,723,940.50 excluding VAT be approved; and

(c) That the contract value up to £2,883,940.50 excluding VAT, which included £160,000 for quantified risk and contingency be approved.

17 **Contract Award: Paisley Grammar School Community Campus (PGSCC) – Principal Contractor (PC) Enabling Works (RC-CPU-21-247)**

There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Finance & Resources and Environment, Housing & Infrastructure relative to the award of an enabling works package for Paisley Grammar School Community Campus – Principal Contractor Enabling Works to Galliford Try Construction Limited, t/a Morrison Construction Scotland.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award an Enabling Works Contract for the Paisley Grammar School Community Campus (PGSCC) – Principal Contractor (PC) Enabling Works (RC-CPU-21-247) to Galliford Try Construction Limited, T/A Morrison Construction Scotland;
- (b) That the award of the contract for the contract sum of £1,906,916 excluding VAT be approved;
- (c) That the approved contract value up to £2,097,607 excluding VAT, which included £190,691 for risk and contingency, be approved; and
- (d) That it be noted that the contract was anticipated to start on 26 February 2024, with the date for completion of the works anticipated to be 31 May 2024 and that the actual dates would be confirmed in the Council's letter of acceptance to Galliford Try Construction Limited, T/A Morrison Construction Scotland.

Minute of Meeting Investment Review Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 22 November 2023	11:00	Remotely via MS Teams,

Present: Councillor Jacqueline Cameron, Councillor David McGonigle, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor John Shaw

In Attendance

C McCourt, Head of Finance & Procurement, G Borland, Finance Manager, A Burns, Corporate Finance Manager; R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer and J Barron, Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

D Watson, Investment Consultant Hymans Robertson LLP, and C Joiner, LGT, formerly abrdn Capital Limited.

Recording of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Convener intimated that this meeting of this Board would be recorded and that the recording would be available to watch on the Council's website.

Apology

Councillor Ann-Dowling.

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 Minute of Previous Meeting

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Investment Review Board held on 7 June 2023.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds Six Month Report to 30 September 2023

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance and Resources together with a presentation by D Watson from Hymans Robertson LLP, relative to the Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds, a review of investment income and the key issues pertaining thereto. C Joiner, Senior Charity Portfolio Manager (Scotland) LGT (formerly abr dn) (formerly Aberdeen Standard Capital Limited) also provided a presentation relative to the Paisley and Renfrew Common Good fund investments performance.

The presentations referred to a review of the Investment Managers' performance for the six months to 30 September 2023; an update of markets; and the current economic climate.

DECIDED: That the report and presentations be noted.

3 Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds: review of Investment Policy Statement

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the scope and content of the proposed Investment Policy Statement.

The Council had arranged for the investments of the Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds to be managed by LGT (formally abr dn Capital Limited), and had agreed with the manager a number of principles which would govern decisions regarding those investments.

The principles covered a range of issues, such as what benchmark should be employed against to assess the manager's performance and any restrictions the manager must observe in choosing sectors or classes of asset in which to invest.

These requirements were formalised in an Investment Policy Statement, which was reviewed annually to ensure that the principles remain appropriate to the Council's requirements.

The Statement of Investment Policy was last reviewed in November 2022, and having undertaken the annual review the Finance Manager outlined the main amendments proposed. A copy of the revised Statement of Investment Principles document was appended to the report.

DECIDED: That the Statement of Investment Principles, a copy of which was attached to the report, be approved as a replacement for the existing Statement of Investment Principles.

4 **Date of Next Meeting**

DECIDED: That the next meeting of the Investment Review Board be held on 12 June 2024.

Minute of Meeting

Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 20 February 2024	10:00	Microsoft Teams Meeting,

Present: Councillor Stephen Burns, Mrs Elaine Knox, Councillor Iain McMillan

Chair

Councillor Burns, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

G Thomson, Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Advice) and E Gray, Senior Committee Services Officer (both Finance & Resources).

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Appeals Panel resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

1 **Castlehead High School - Appeal Against Refusal of a Placing Request - 24/01**

Consideration was given to an appeal against the refusal of a placing request for S2 at Castlehead High School.

All participants had been invited to attend virtually by means of MS Teams. L Mitchell, Senior Solicitor (Finance & Resources), and G Menzies, Headteacher of Castlehead High School and A Gallagher, Resource Manager (both Children's Services), all representing the Education Authority, were in attendance. The appellant in relation to appeal 24/01, was also in attendance.

G Thomson, Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Advice) outlined the procedure to be followed in hearing the appeal.

L Mitchell then presented the case for the Education Authority and led evidence from G Menzies and A Gallagher in relation to the circumstances surrounding the refusal of the placing request.

The appellant was then invited to present their case.

Each side having been given the opportunity to cross examine and sum up, were thanked for their attendance and left the hearing.

DECIDED: That one or more of the grounds of refusal specified in Section 28(A) (3) and (3A) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 existed and that in all the circumstances, it was appropriate to confirm the Education Authority's decision and that the appeal be not upheld. This was agreed unanimously.