

Minute of Meeting Council

| Date | Time | Venue |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------|
| Thursday, 13 May 2021 | 09:30 | Teams meeting, |

Present: Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor, Councillor Tom Begg, Councillor Derek Bibby, Councillor Bill Binks, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Jacqueline Cameron, Provost Lorraine Cameron, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Carolann Davidson, Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Alison Jean Dowling, Councillor Edward Grady, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Karen Kennedy, Councillor Scott Kerr, Councillor Alistair Mackay, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Kenny MacLaren, Councillor Mags MacLaren, Councillor Eileen McCartin, Councillor Colin McCulloch, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor John McIntyre, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Kevin Montgomery, Councillor Will Mylet, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor Emma Rodden, Councillor Jim Sharkey, Councillor John Shaw, Councillor James Sheridan, Councillor Jane Strang

In Attendance

S Black, Chief Executive; S Quinn, Director of Children's Services; M Crearie, Director of Communities & Housing Services; G McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure; A Russell, Director of Finance & Resources; L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning, L Mahon, Head of Marketing & Communications and A Morrison, Head of Economy & Development Services (all Chief Executive's); O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection and C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager (both Communities and Housing Services); J Trainer, Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice (Children's Services); K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, L Belshaw and D Low, both Democratic Services Managers E Currie, C MacDonald, P Shiach, all Senior Committee Services Officers, K O'Neill Assistant Committee Services Officer, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, I Blair, D Pole and A Lowe, all End User Technicians (all Finance & Resources); and S Strachan, Interim Chief Officer (Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); and V Hollows, Chief Executive (Renfrewshire Leisure Limited).

Apologies

Councillors Don and Steel.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dowling declared a non-financial interest in respect of item 6 Motion 3 of the agenda in that she had a family member on the autistic spectrum. She intimated that she would remain in the meeting and take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Burns declared an interest in respect of item 9 Motion 6 of the agenda as he was a Director of a pest control business. He intimated that he would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor McIntyre declared an interest in respect of item 12, Motion 9 of the agenda as he was a Director of a company which carried out insurance underwriting. He intimated that he would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Recording of Meeting

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

Additional Item

Provost Cameron intimated that she had received notice of an emergency motion by Councillor Shaw. seconded by Councillor Devine. which had not been included in the Notice calling the meeting.

Provost Cameron ruled that in terms of Standing Order 14(b), the emergency motion by Councillors Shaw and Devine be considered by the Council a matter of urgency to ensure that the necessary arrangements could be made to meet the required timescale. The emergency motion would be taken up as an additional item of business at the end of the meeting as agenda item 13.

1 **Minutes of Meetings of Council, Boards and Panels (attached separately)**

There were submitted the Minutes of the following meetings of the Council, Boards and Panels on the dates specified:

Council, 4 March 2021
 Special Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board, 5 March 2021
 Placing Requests & Exclusions Appeals Panel, 11 March 2021
 Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board, 16 March 2021
 Regulatory Functions Board, 17 March 2021
 Education & Children's Services Policy Board, 18 March 2021
 Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board, 22 March 2021
 Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board, 24 March 2021
 Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board, 31 March 2021
 Regulatory Functions Board, 1 April 2021
 Special Leadership Board, 6 April 2021
 Special Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board, 14 April 2021
 Leadership Board, 28 April 2021

Under reference to page 524 of the Minute of the meeting of the Leadership Board held on 28 April 2021, Councillor Devine indicated that the Minute required to be corrected as his declaration of interest in item 10 of the agenda for that meeting as a member of the Renfrewshire Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund had been omitted.

DECIDED: That the Minutes be approved subject to the correction to the Minute of the meeting of the Leadership Board held on 28 April 2021 to include the declaration of interest by Councillor Devine in item 10 of the agenda as a member of the Renfrewshire Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund.

2 **The National Transfer Scheme and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the National Transfer Scheme which allowed for unaccompanied children to be transferred to the care of local authorities other than that to which they had first arrived. The Scheme was intended to ease pressures on areas of high traffic (such as those with busy airports or direct travel links to and from the European mainland). Those who joined the scheme could apply for children to be transferred from their care as well as accept children from other local authority areas.

The report advised that the Home Office provided direct funding to local authorities for the care and support of unaccompanied children. In certain circumstances, this funding could be provided up to the age of 25.

Provost Cameron, seconded by Councillor Nicolson, moved that it be agreed that Renfrewshire Council formally join the National Transfer Scheme with a view to considering applications for the transfer of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to Renfrewshire.

Councillor Bibby, seconded by Councillor Dowling, moved that in addition

“Council notes the proud record of communities across Renfrewshire in offering refuge and shelter to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children over the last two decades. In maintaining this proud record, and in the event of joining the National Transfer Scheme, Council believes that it should not be impeded by financial constraints or detriment, and accordingly will write to the UK Government to secure a commitment that it will fully fund all future placements of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and associated care costs, incurred by Renfrewshire Council and other local authorities across Scotland.”

In terms of Standing Order 27, Provost Cameron and Councillor Nicolson, being the mover and seconder of the motion, agreed to accept the amendment as an addition to the motion and the motion, as amended, was approved.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be agreed that Renfrewshire Council formally join the National Transfer Scheme with a view to considering applications for the transfer of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to Renfrewshire; and

(b) That Council notes the proud record of communities across Renfrewshire in offering refuge and shelter to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children over the last two decades. In maintaining this proud record, and in the event of joining the National Transfer Scheme, Council believes that it should not be impeded by financial constraints or detriment, and accordingly will write to the UK Government to secure a commitment that it will fully fund all future placements of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and associated care costs, incurred by Renfrewshire Council and other local authorities across Scotland.

3 Governance Arrangements until 24 June 2021

Under reference to item 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 4 March 2021, there was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to proposed arrangements for the next cycle of Board meetings up to and including the next full Council meeting on 24 June 2021, and providing an update on the installation of the Public-i system that would enable live-streamed hybrid meetings to take place as restrictions to combat the Covid-19 pandemic were eased.

The report proposed that the arrangements that had been in place for Board and Council meetings since August 2020 be continued for one further cycle of meetings to enable the Public-i system to be fully tested and for elected members and officers to receive training on the system prior to it going live. The arrangements set out in the report aimed to allow the next cycle of Board meetings to take place as efficiently as possible in the current circumstances and to move away from governance arrangements that were created as a response to an emergency.

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved that the report be approved, and that in addition, the following proposed changes to Policy Board memberships from the SNP group be agreed.

Councillor Audrey Doig to replace Councillor Natalie Don on the Education & Children's Services Policy Board

Councillor Iain Nicolson to replace Councillor Natalie Don on the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board

Councillor Jim Paterson to replace Councillor Natalie Don on the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board

Councillor Michelle Campbell to be appointed as Depute Convener of the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board.

DECIDED:

(a) That the arrangements for the next cycle of Council and Board meetings set out in section 4 of the report be approved;

(b) That the position in relation to the installation of the Public-i system and the proposals for mobilising the system be noted;

(c) That it be noted that the arrangements for subsequent Board cycles would be the subject of a report to Council on 24 June 2021;

(d) That the proposal to bring to an end the current temporary arrangements for the Emergencies Board be approved; and

(e) That the following changes to Policy Board memberships from the SNP group be approved: -

Councillor Audrey Doig to replace Councillor Natalie Don on the Education & Children's Services Policy Board

Councillor Iain Nicolson to replace Councillor Natalie Don on the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board

Councillor Jim Paterson to replace Councillor Natalie Don on the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board

Councillor Michelle Campbell to be appointed as Depute Convener of the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board.

4 Notice of Motion 1 by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors McCartin and Andy Doig in the following terms:

"Section 50 Monies Held by Renfrewshire Council for Community Benefit in Lochwinnoch

Council calls on the Planning Department to release the Section 50 monies to Lochwinnoch Community Council, estimated to be £40,000, which the Council was given for community benefit in the village by housing developers when the Station Rise development was being built in the early 1990's."

Councillors McCartin and Andy Doig then moved the motion.

Councillor Rodden, seconded by Councillor McGurk, moved as an amendment that in addition

“Council understands that the sums involved were provided for in a legal document (Section 50 Agreement) for a specified purpose attached to the granting of a planning application. The specified purpose was to support the provision of industrial units in Lochwinnoch which has not been progressed.

Council therefore agrees that officers be instructed to expedite confirmation of the legal status of these monies direct with the applicant with a view to repurposing the funds. Also that a report be presented to the relevant board with options to as to the legal distribution of the funds, if applicable, for the benefit of the residents of Lochwinnoch”

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors McCartin and Andy Doig, being the mover and seconder of the motion accepted the addition to the motion. The motion, as amended, was agreed unanimously.

In addition, it was proposed that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board in relation to Section 50 monies which might be identified in relation to other Wards. This was agreed.

DECIDED: Section 50 Monies Held by Renfrewshire Council for Community Benefit in Lochwinnoch

(a) Council calls on the Planning Department to release the Section 50 monies to Lochwinnoch Community Council, estimated to be £40,000, which the Council was given for community benefit in the village by housing developers when the Station Rise development was being built in the early 1990’s

Council understands that the sums involved were provided for in a legal document (Section 50 Agreement) for a specified purpose attached to the granting of a planning application. The specified purpose was to support the provision of industrial units in Lochwinnoch which has not been progressed.

Council therefore agrees that officers be instructed to expedite confirmation of the legal status of these monies direct with the applicant with a view to repurposing the funds. Also that a report be presented to the relevant board with options to as to the legal distribution of the funds, if applicable, for the benefit of the residents of Lochwinnoch; and

(b) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board in relation to Section 50 monies which might be identified in relation to other Wards.

5 **Notice of Motion 2 by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin in the following terms:

"Dog Shock Collar Ban

Council notes that in the recent Scottish Parliamentary elections the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals called in its manifesto, A Better Scotland for Animals, for a ban on shock collars for dogs, a stance also supported by the Kennel Club and the Dogs Trust. Council further regrets the prevarication of the Scottish Government on the question of banning shock collars, reiterates its opposition to shock collars for dogs, and agrees to write to the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission calling for a ban at the earliest opportunity."

Councillor Andy Doig, seconded by Councillor McCartin, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Dog Shock Collar Ban - Council notes that in the recent Scottish Parliamentary elections the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals called in its manifesto, A Better Scotland for Animals, for a ban on shock collars for dogs, a stance also supported by the Kennel Club and the Dogs Trust. Council further regrets the prevarication of the Scottish Government on the question of banning shock collars, reiterates its opposition to shock collars for dogs, and agrees to write to the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission calling for a ban at the earliest opportunity.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Dowling having previously declared an interest in the following item remained in the meeting.

6 Notice of Motion 3 by Councillors J Cameron and Hughes

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors J Cameron and Hughes in the following terms:

"Council agrees to support the "Our Voice Our Rights" campaign led by Enable Scotland, The National Autistic Society Scotland and Scottish Autism in their campaign which is calling for a Commissioner to protect and uphold the rights of people affected by a disability and/or Autism and their families. The appointed Commissioner would be the first of its kind in the world, established in law to champion the human rights of people with a learning disability and/or Autism. The "Our Voice Our Rights" campaign aims to make Scotland the best country in the world for the 175,000 people with a learning disability, the 56,000 people affected by Autism and their families in Scotland."

Councillor J Cameron, seconded by Councillor Hughes, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Council agrees to support the “Our Voice Our Rights” campaign led by Enable Scotland, The National Autistic Society Scotland and Scottish Autism in their campaign which is calling for a Commissioner to protect and uphold the rights of people affected by a disability and/or Autism and their families. The appointed Commissioner would be the first of its kind in the world, established in law to champion the human rights of people with a learning disability and/or Autism. The “Our Voice Our Rights” campaign aims to make Scotland the best country in the world for the 175,000 people with a learning disability, the 56,000 people affected by Autism and their families in Scotland.

7 **Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors J Cameron and K MacLaren**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors J Cameron and K MacLaren in the following terms:

"Council welcomes the Community Access to Cash Pilots being rolled out in a number of communities including Cambuslang and Falkirk. The pilots are trialling a number of wide ranging ideas, including 'Bank Hubs', which will provide basic banking services including Post Office counter services and dedicated rooms where customers can meet staff from their own bank. If the pilots are deemed successful, they will seek to roll the programme out nationally. Council therefore agrees to engage in these conversations to find solutions to the ongoing impact of closures of local banks and post offices on our high streets and village communities."

Councillor J Cameron, seconded by Councillor K MacLaren, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Council welcomes the Community Access to Cash Pilots being rolled out in a number of communities including Cambuslang and Falkirk. The pilots are trialling a number of wide ranging ideas, including 'Bank Hubs', which will provide basic banking services including Post Office counter services and dedicated rooms where customers can meet staff from their own bank. If the pilots are deemed successful, they will seek to roll the programme out nationally. Council therefore agrees to engage in these conversations to find solutions to the ongoing impact of closures of local banks and post offices on our high streets and village communities.

8 **Notice of Motion 5 by Councillor Sharkey and Hood**

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

"McGills Buses – No. 20 Route

Council opposes the change in service proposed by McGills to the No 20 bus route. The Whitehaugh portion of the route serves many elderly residents who need a better service not a reduced one and Arkleston Road was never intended to sustain such heavy traffic. The proposed infrastructure changes are judged as dangerous by local people and as such are totally unacceptable. The termination of the route at Johnstone town centre and the subsequent need to change buses for the people of Johnstone Castle increases journey time and will discourage bus travel when we should be doing all we can to encourage bus use."

Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor Hood, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: McGill's Buses – No. 20 Route - Council opposes the change in service proposed by McGill's to the No 20 bus route. The Whitehaugh portion of the route serves many elderly residents who need a better service not a reduced one and Arkleston Road was never intended to sustain such heavy traffic. The proposed infrastructure changes are judged as dangerous by local people and as such are totally unacceptable. The termination of the route at Johnstone town centre and the subsequent need to change buses for the people of Johnstone Castle increases journey time and will discourage bus travel when we should be doing all we can to encourage bus use.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Burns, having previously declared an interest in the following item of business, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

9 Notice of Motion 6 by Councillors Kennedy and Devine

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

"Rat Infestations – Associated Charges

Council agrees to suspend the charges for services associated with the control of rodents until such time as the current explosion in rat infestation is under control and to encourage our local residents to take up those services."

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

Councillor McEwan, seconded by Councillor Nicolson, moved as an amendment that

"Council notes:

- There is no evidence to support the statement that there is an actual increase in numbers of rats or an 'explosion' in rat infestation.
- That figures for service requests show a reduction in requests for service over the period of monitoring 2019 – 21.
- The council operates a flat rate fee of £61.20 for full eradication treatment one of the smallest charges among local authorities and well below the market rate of £100-200
- The Service provides non chargeable treatment for public and communal areas.
- The service operates a rebate scheme for private service users who are on relevant benefits.

- Most service requests come from Council tenants who do not pay for the service directly with their costs covered through the housing revenue account.

Council agrees that the service is operating well and is providing an effective and affordable service to all Renfrewshire householders and at a cost well below that of the private sector."

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Adam-McGregor, J Cameron, Provost L Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Audrey Doig, Hughes, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, McCartin, McEwan, McGurk, McNaughtan, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden and Shaw.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Begg, Bibby, Binks, Brown, Davidson, Devine, Andy Doig, Dowling, Grady, Graham, Harte, Hood, Kennedy, Kerr, Mackay, J MacLaren, McCulloch, McIntyre, Montgomery, Sharkey, Sheridan and Strang.

17 Members having voted for the amendment and 22 Members having voted for the motion, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: Rat Infestations – Associated Charges - Council agrees to suspend the charges for services associated with the control of rodents until such time as the current explosion in rat infestation is under control and to encourage our local residents to take up those services.

10 **Notice of Motion 7 by Councillors Graham and McIntyre**

There was submitted a notice of motion by Councillors Graham and McIntyre in the following terms:

"Renfrewshire Council agrees to write to the Standards Commission For Scotland inviting the commission to Renfrewshire for their next roadshow event. Council also agrees to make available Renfrewshire House or any Council owned building which could facilitate this event as Covid-19 restrictions allow."

Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That Renfrewshire Council agrees to write to the Standards Commission for Scotland inviting the Commission to Renfrewshire for their next roadshow event. Council also agrees to make available Renfrewshire House or any Council owned building which could facilitate this event as Covid-19 restrictions allow.

11 **Notice of Motion 8 by Councillors Hood and Sharkey**

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

"McGill's No. 38 bus service

Council calls on McGill's to withdraw their threat to reduce the No 38 Glasgow to Kilbarchan or Spateston bus services which are needed by the young, the elderly, and

everyone who is serious about reducing carbon effect on the planet. The current Transport Bill includes the option for local authorities to regulate bus services, which is the existing policy of Renfrewshire Council, and calls on the Administration to provide a comprehensive report to the next full council on the progression of this policy, including any comment made by McGills."

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

Councillor McGurk, seconded by Councillor Nicolson, moved as an amendment that

"Council notes the provisions contained within the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 which allow local authorities to play an increased role in the regulation, operation and franchising of bus services within their local areas. The roll out of the guidance relating to these specific provisions has been significantly delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and at the current time there is no date scheduled for implementation of these specific aspects through the creation of new regulations.

The Council will continue to work with partner authorities and SPT to review the guidance when it is issued and identify the issues which could impact on Renfrewshire. Council agrees that a report will be submitted to the relevant board on the potential impacts of the Transport (Scotland) Act including the impacts on the sector as a result of the pandemic."

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillor McGurk, as the mover of the amendment then withdrew the amendment, and the motion was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: McGill's No. 38 bus service - Council calls on McGill's to withdraw their threat to reduce the No 38 Glasgow to Kilbarchan or Spateston bus services which are needed by the young, the elderly, and everyone who is serious about reducing carbon effect on the planet. The current Transport Bill includes the option for local authorities to regulate bus services, which is the existing policy of Renfrewshire Council, and calls on the Administration to provide a comprehensive report to the next full Council on the progression of this policy, including any comment made by McGill's.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor McIntyre, having previously declared an interest in the following item of business, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

12 Notice of Motion 9 by Councillors Sheridan and Devine

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

"Compulsory home insurance

That this council calls on the Scottish/ UK government to introduce legislation making home insurance compulsory for all households.

Councillor Sheridan, seconded by Councillor Devine, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

It was proposed that further discussions take place with the Director of Communities & Housing in relation to compulsory home insurance and that a report to Communities Housing and Planning Board be considered. This was agreed

DECIDED: Compulsory home insurance

(a) That this Council calls on the Scottish/UK government to introduce legislation making home insurance compulsory for all households; and

(b) That further discussions take place with the Director of Communities & Housing in relation to compulsory home insurance and that a report to Communities Housing and Planning Board be considered.

13 **Emergency Motion by Councillors Shaw and Devine**

There was submitted an Emergency Motion by Councillors Shaw and Devine in the following terms:

“Braehead Arena

Council notes that the owners of Braehead Arena, Global Mutual, are currently undergoing an exercise to identify a new Operating Company to take over the running of the Braehead Arena and that one of the companies interesting in taking on this responsibility is the Glasgow Clan.

Council welcomes the bid by the Glasgow Clan to become the operator of the Arena which would secure their future in Renfrewshire and the future of the venue as the home of ice sports in the Greater Glasgow area.

Council understands that any decision to move forward with operating the venue as a ‘dry’ arena (without ice) would be devastating for The Clan, The Paisley Pirates, Braehead Peewees, local recreational teams + tens of thousands of other ice users.

Council supports Glasgow Clan in their bid to secure the future of Braehead Arena as an ice venue and calls on Global Mutual to take into consideration the huge community of fans and ice users who could lose out if a decision is made not to appoint the Glasgow Clan as Operators.

Council agrees that the Chief Executive will write to Global Mutual expressing the Council’s support for the Glasgow Clan bid and calling for them to expedite a decision in favour of the Clan to allow them to plan for the season and years ahead, securing the Arena as an ice venue.”

Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Devine, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Braehead Arena - Council notes that the owners of Braehead Arena, Global Mutual, are currently undergoing an exercise to identify a new Operating Company to take over the running of the Braehead Arena and that one of the companies interesting in taking on this responsibility is the Glasgow Clan.

Council welcomes the bid by the Glasgow Clan to become the operator of the Arena which would secure their future in Renfrewshire and the future of the venue as the home of ice sports in the Greater Glasgow area.

Council understands that any decision to move forward with operating the venue as a 'dry' arena (without ice) would be devastating for The Clan, The Paisley Pirates, Braehead Peewees, local recreational teams + tens of thousands of other ice users.

Council supports Glasgow Clan in their bid to secure the future of Braehead Arena as an ice venue and calls on Global Mutual to take into consideration the huge community of fans and ice users who could lose out if a decision is made not to appoint the Glasgow Clan as Operators.

Council agrees that the Chief Executive will write to Global Mutual expressing the Council's support for the Glasgow Clan bid and calling for them to expedite a decision in favour of the Clan to allow them to plan for the season and years ahead, securing the Arena as an ice venue.

Minute of Meeting

Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel

| Date | Time | Venue |
|---------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Monday, 17 May 2021 | 10:00 | Remotely by MS Teams, |

Present: Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor, Councillor Bill Brown, Ms Elaine McNamara

In Attendance

D Briggs, Senior Solicitor (Litigation) and P Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer (both Finance & Resources).

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest 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 **St Andrew's Academy - Appeal against Refusal of a Placing Request - SAA 21/01**

Consideration was given to appeals against the refusal of placing request at St Andrew's Academy.

All participants had been invited to attend virtually by means of MS Teams. C Adam, Senior Solicitor, (Finance and Resources), and A Gallagher, Operations Manager (Children's Services) both representing the Education Authority, were invited to attend the meeting. The appellants in relation to appeals SAA/21/01 and SAA/21/03, were invited into the meeting.

The Senior Solicitor (Litigation) outlined the procedure to be followed in hearing the appeals.

C Adam then presented the case for the Education Authority and led evidence from A Gallagher in relation to the circumstances surrounding the refusal of the placing requests.

The appellant in relation to appeal SAA/21/03, then left the hearing.

The appellant in relation to appeal SAA/20/01 then presented her 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.

2 **St Andrew's Academy - Appeal against Refusal of a Placing Request - SAA 21/03**

Consideration was given to appeal SAA/21/03 against the refusal of a placing request to St Andrew's Academy.

C Adam, Senior Solicitor, (Finance and Resources), and A Gallacher Operations Manager (Children's Services), were invited into the meeting together with the appellants.

The appellant in relation to appeal SAA/21/03 then presented her 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.

3 **St Andrew's Academy - Appeal against Refusal of a Placing Request
- SAA 21/02**

Consideration was given to appeal SAA/21/02 against the refusal of a placing request to St Andrew's Academy.

The applicant in relation to SAA/21/02 was not in attendance, having requested that the appeal be determined by way of written submissions.

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.

Minute of Meeting

Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board

| Date | Time | Venue |
|----------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| | | |
| Tuesday, 18 May 2021 | 13:00 | Microsoft TEAMS Platform, |

Present: Councillor Bill Binks, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Kenny MacLaren, Councillor Mags MacLaren, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor Emma Rodden, Councillor James Sheridan

Chair

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

M Crearie, Director of Communities and Housing Services; A Morrison, Head of Economy & Development, L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning, D Love, Chief Planning Officer, S Marklow, Strategy & Place Manager, A Armstrong Walter, Strategic Partnership & Inequalities Manager and C Orr, Senior Communications Officer (all Chief Executive's); J Trainer, Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice (Children's Services); F Carlin, Head of Housing Services, O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection, C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager, L Muirhead, Planning & Housing Manager and J Murdoch, Housing Regeneration & Service Improvement Manager (all Communities & Housing Services); and K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, D Pole, End User Technician, R Graham, Solicitor Litigation & Licensing, S Muir, Finance Business Partner, R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer and K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic/Depute District Registration Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Welcome

The Convener welcomed Councillor Paterson and David Love, Chief Planning Officer, to their first meeting of the Policy Board since their appointments.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Nicolson declared a non-financial interest in respect of agenda item 4 – Greenspaces, Parks and Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund - as he was a member of Inchinnan Development Trust and intimated that it was his intention to remain in the meeting and to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor J MacLaren declared an interest in respect of agenda items 6 and 7 – Housing-led Regeneration and Renewal Programme for Renfrewshire and Paisley West End- Housing Regeneration Update respectively - as he was a resident and property owner in the area and intimated that it was his intention to remain in the meeting and to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

1 Police and Fire & Rescue Services Scrutiny Sub- committee

There was submitted the Note of the inquorate meeting of the meeting of the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-committee held on 16 March 2021 and the Minute of the meeting of the Sub-committee held on 23 March 2021, which form Appendices to this Minute.

The Convener highlighted that a copy of the Elected Members - Personal Safety protocol had been circulated to elected members.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 Housing Revenue Account, Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report

There was submitted a joint Housing Revenue Account, Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring report by the Director of Finance & Resources for the period 1 April 2020 to 5 March 2021.

The report stated that the projected revenue outturn at 31 March 2021 for all services reporting to this Policy Board was an overspend position of £1.137 million. The projected capital outturn at 31 March 2021 for projects reporting to this Policy Board was a breakeven position against the revised budget for the year. Summaries were provided over the relevant services in the tables within the report, together with further analysis. It was noted that for financial year 2020/21 the projected outturn position was split into core and Covid-19 related variances to assist understanding of the impact of the pandemic on service finances. It was highlighted that revenue budget adjustments, totalling a net reduction of £211,000, comprising a reduction of £209,000 in employee costs as a result of the Community Development and Community Protection workstreams within the Right for Renfrewshire Programme and the transfer of £2,000 to Finance & Resources representing a centralisation of budget resources to fund the cost of the Council's Copyright licence. In addition, the Board was advised that since consideration of the previous report, capital budget changes totalling £0.784 million had arisen which reflected Budget re-profiling from

2021/22 to 2020/21 in respect of the following budget heading; Improvements to Existing Properties (£0.430 million); and from 2020/21 to 2021/22 in respect of the following budget headings Council House New Build (£0.588 million); Other Assets (£0.433 million); Local Green Area Projects (£0.057 million); and Private Sector Housing Grant (£0.136 million). The report detailed the reasons for the re-profiling.

DECIDED:

(a) That the projected Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and 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.

3 **Community Empowerment Fund**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to applications received for funding from the Community Empowerment Fund in the fourteenth round of funding.

The report outlined the key objectives and aims of the Community Empowerment Fund and indicated that two new applications had been received and considered for funding, together with one deferred application. Summaries of applications for funding from Friends of Howwood Park, Paisley Community Trust and Thorn Athletics Club were provided. The total value of requested grant funding during the current round was £150,000. The recommendations of the cross-service panel of officers, for determination in respect of each of these applications were detailed within the report and Appendix 1. The Convener proposed that the request from Paisley Community Trust be awarded £15,600 from the Community Empowerment Fund to support the organisation to meet the requirements of an application for external funding. This was agreed.

DECIDED: That the Board approve the recommendations, detailed in section 4 of the report and Appendix 1, to award £50,000 to Friends of Howwood Park and £15,600 to Paisley Community Trust, subject to the conditions detailed in the report, and to continue consideration of the application submitted by Thorn Athletics Club.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Nicolson having previously declared an interest in the following item of business remained in the meeting.

4 **Greenspaces, Parks and Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund.

A cross-service panel of officers had been established to review and assess applications to the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund

against agreed objectives and criteria. The Director of Communities & Housing Services had been delegated authority to make grant awards under £5,000. Details of awards made in terms of this delegated authority, which had not previously been reported to this Policy Board, were detailed within Appendix 1.

The report indicated that interested groups had been invited to submit projects by 31 March 2021 to have the best opportunity to gain funding and that this had generated receipt of 18 applications, 15 of which sought awards of more than £10,000, for assessment during this funding round. Summaries of the projects were provided together with the balance of funds and details of awards, groups, projects, areas and categories that had previously received funding.

The report highlighted that (i) Sandyflats Tenants and Residents Association, which had previously been awarded £50,000, had folded in December 2020 with the Chair of the group unable to recruit a new administration. The Chair had however continued to inspire local activity with regular litterpicks, had commissioned an artist to paint a mural on the neighbourhood shop wall and been successful in engaging the community to complete the artwork. It was proposed that the previously awarded £50,000 be used, by the Council, to upgrade Sandyflats Park in line with the proposals previously agreed by the community and approved by the Board; (ii) Spateston Tenants and Residents Association had applied for £40,000 for Phase 2 of their community park although Phase 1 had not yet been delivered. The group aspired to ultimately deliver £100,000 of improvements in the local park. Suppliers had advised the group that it would be more cost effective to deliver the proposals in one project rather than on a phased basis and consequently the group was now seeking approval of phase 2 funding to allow them to move forward on that basis. It was noted that Renfrewshire Council would arrange installation of the community designed park and pay the supplier directly.

DECIDED:

(a) That the work currently being undertaken to support communities as they developed projects to be funded using the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund be noted;

(b) That the award of grants in terms of delegated authority, totalling £14,900 to community groups detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be noted;

(c) That it be agreed that the projects, detailed in section 3 of the report and Appendix 1, be awarded grant funding totalling £533,000 to support community groups; and

(d) That it be agreed that the £50,000 funding previously awarded to Sandyflats Tenants & Residents Association be used to upgrade Sandyflats Park in line with the proposals which previously received the agreement of the community and had been approved by the Board.

5(a) Communities & Housing Services Service Improvement Plan 2020/21 Outturn Report

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to performance to deliver the Communities & Housing Service Improvement Plan during the 12-month period to 31 March 2021.

The report provided a summary of the performance of Communities & Housing Services during 2020/21, with a detailed explanation on all relevant actions and performance indicators, including details of actions delayed or cancelled as a consequence of Covid-19 restrictions and/or the need to refocus service priorities in order to manage the pandemic response.

The report reminded members that the Service Improvement Plan (SIP) sat beneath the Council Plan and Community Plan, and along with the service's risk register and workforce plan formed a suite of documents which provided the strategic direction for the service. Service Improvement Plans were aligned to the priorities set out in the Council Plan 2017/2022 and included those areas of the Council Plan for which Communities & Housing Services was the lead. During March 2020, the service had identified key actions it aimed to achieve over the next three-year period, in order to deliver improved outcomes for local people and communities and contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan. Given the unprecedented nature of events in 2020/21, these three-year plans had been replaced by Service Delivery Plans which had focused on a single year, 2021/22, and outlined what each service planned to do to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and associated restrictions, as well as actions to support recovery and renewal.

The Communities & Housing Services Service Delivery Plan had previously been considered at the meetings of this Policy Board and the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board held on 16 and 24 March 2021 respectively. The report highlighted that the action plan was the core of the Service Improvement Plan, setting out the priorities being addressed, the key tasks to be implemented, the implementation timetable and the measures of success. The service scorecard set out a range of key indicators against which aspects of performance were measured. In addition, it was noted that the Covid-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on the operation of the Council and on how services were delivered. Whilst there had been periods where national policy required some services be paused, most service areas delivered by Communities & Housing had continued throughout the year and adapted to new ways of working. At the same time, the Council had taken on additional tasks directly related to supporting residents through the pandemic, whether as a single agency or in partnership with other public and third sector organisations.

The report also highlighted that the work of Future Paisley, across the Council and its key partners, had been broadened to focus on a wider set of strategic objectives both for Paisley and the wider geography of Renfrewshire and now sat within the Chief Executive's Service; and that Building Standards, Planning and employees involved in the preparation of the Local Housing Strategy had also transferred to the Chief Executive's Service. The Service Improvement Plans had been approved by relevant policy boards during March 2020 and contained actions and Performance indicators for these areas which, until January, sat within Communities, Housing & Planning Services. In order to keep the governance correct with the approved Plan, updates for 2020/21 for these service areas had been included within the report, however it was noted that in future, these service areas would be reported within the Chief Executive's Service Delivery Plan.

DECIDED:

- (i) That the report be noted;

(ii) That it be noted that the Communities & Housing Services Service Improvement Plan outturn report would also be submitted to the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board in respect of areas of activity that were within the remit of that Board;

(iii) That progress relative to areas of service performance within the remit of this Board be noted; and

(iv) That progress relative to actions and performance in the action plan be noted.

5(b) **Children's Services Service Improvement Plan 2020/21 Outturn Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to performance to deliver the Children's Services Service Improvement Plan during the 12-month period to 31 March 2021.

The report provided a summary of the performance of Children's Services during 2020/21, with a detailed explanation on all relevant actions and performance indicators, including details of actions delayed or cancelled as a consequence of Covid-19 restrictions and/or the need to refocus service priorities in order to manage the pandemic response.

The report reminded members that the Service Improvement Plan (SIP) sat beneath the Council Plan and Community Plan, and along with the service's risk register and workforce plan formed a suite of documents which provided the strategic direction for the service. Service Improvement Plans were aligned to the priorities set out in the Council Plan 2017/2022 and included those areas of the Council Plan for which Children's Services was the lead. During March 2020, the service had identified key actions it aimed to achieve over the next three-year period, in order to deliver improved outcomes for local people and communities and contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan. Given the unprecedented nature of events in 2020/21, these three-year plans had been replaced by Service Delivery Plans which had focused on a single year, 2021/22, and outlined what each service planned to do to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and associated restrictions, as well as actions to support recovery and renewal.

The Children's Services Service Delivery Plan had previously been considered at the meetings of this Policy Board and the Education & Children's Services Policy Board held on 16 and 18 March 2021 respectively. The report highlighted that the action plan was the core of the Service Improvement Plan, setting out the priorities being addressed, the key tasks to be implemented, the implementation timetable and the measures of success. The service scorecard set out a range of key indicators against which aspects of performance were measured. In addition, it was noted that the Covid-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on the operation of the Council and on how services were delivered. Despite the challenges of maintaining services throughout different stages of restrictions, Children's Services had continued to deliver on its priorities and selected achievements were highlighted in Section 4 of the report.

DECIDED:

(i) That the report be noted;

(ii) That it be noted that the Children's Services Service Improvement Plan outturn report would also be submitted to the Education & Children's Services Policy Board in respect of areas of activity that were within the remit of that Board; and

(iii) That the achievements of Children's Services during 2020/21 relative to areas of service performance within the remit of this Board be noted.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor J MacLaren having previously declared an interest in the following two items of business remained in the meeting.

6 Housing-led Regeneration and Renewal Programme for Renfrewshire

Under reference to item 3(d) of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 17 December 2020 there was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to the consultation phase and investment proposals for the first phase housing investment areas as well as an indicative timeline for the consultation phase of the major programme of the housing-led regeneration and renewal investment programme to deliver modern, high quality, energy efficient, affordable Council housing.

The report indicated that the first phase of the investment programme would be targeted at eight areas, detailed within section 3 of the report, and outlined the rationale and selection process for inclusion of these areas within the first phase. Appendix 1 of the report outlined the assessment and investment proposals for each area. It was noted that in four of the eight regeneration areas there were proposals for potential demolition of some properties. The addresses of properties that were indicatively proposed for demolition were listed in a table within the report and shown on the plans within the Appendix to the report. It was highlighted that all Council tenants affected by demolition would be offered suitable alternative accommodation in line with the Council's housing allocation policy. Furthermore, options for private owners of property affected by the regeneration proposals were also outlined within the report. The report emphasised that new build housing, at a lower density, was proposed within the investment proposals for each of the areas where demolition of properties was being considered. It was also highlighted that a key objective of the regeneration investment programme, where demolition was proposed, was to deliver homes of a suitable type and size to meet current and future needs and to enable existing households to remain in the area where possible. Authority was sought to consult with local communities, tenants, residents, and owners on the proposals. A broad framework and timeframe for undertaking the consultation and for reporting the outcome to a future meeting of this Policy Board was provided.

Following discussion it was proposed and agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Policy Board on "alternatives to the bland metal shutters over the windows of vacant properties to avoid the eyesore that we see in other regeneration areas."

DECIDED:

- (a) That the Director of Communities & Housing Services be authorised to consult on the development of a regeneration and renewal strategy for the eight areas as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (b) That the indicative timescales for consultation with tenants, residents, owners and local communities, as set out in section 4 of this report be noted;
- (c) That it be agreed that, in those areas where demolition was proposed, as detailed in Table 2 of the report, any properties which were currently void were not re-let and any properties which became vacant were not re-let pending the outcome of the consultation;
- (d) That the proposed amendments to the Council's Acquisition Scheme for Private Housing, as detailed in section 3 of the report, be approved to enable the acquisition of privately owned properties within identified regeneration areas where this would help consolidate ownership and facilitate delivery of the investment programme in these areas; and
- (e) That that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Policy Board on "alternatives to the bland metal shutters over the windows of vacant properties to avoid the eyesore that we see in other regeneration areas.

7 **Paisley West End - Housing Regeneration Update**

Under reference to item 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Policy Board held on 18 August 2020 there was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to the regeneration of Paisley's West End, and the activity, being led by Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association (SSHA), to voluntarily acquire privately owned properties within the area and seeking authority to pursue a Compulsory Purchase Order application with the Scottish Government to enable the acquisition of privately-owned properties between 26 and 34 Well Street, Paisley.

The Board was reminded that a Regeneration Masterplan for Paisley West End, to be implemented in partnership with SSHA, had been approved at the meeting of the Leadership Board held on 12 December 2017. The agreed Masterplan involved the demolition of existing residential and commercial properties at Well Street, Underwood Lane and Clavering Street East, Paisley and the development of new homes on the cleared sites. The Board had also agreed that the Council would use Compulsory Purchase powers to facilitate delivery of the Masterplan if SSHA was not able, despite all reasonable attempts, to voluntarily acquire all privately owned properties within the designated area.

The report highlighted that all Council tenants within the Masterplan area had been rehoused and that vacant properties and land would be transferred to SSHA in line with their phasing strategy. As part of the delivery of the first phase of redevelopment, demolition of the former student accommodation in Underwood Lane, Paisley had been completed and a planning application for 35 new residential units at Underwood Lane and Sutherland Street, Paisley approved with construction work expected to start on site during late 2021/ early 2022. It was anticipated that the works would take around 12 months to complete. Provision had been included within Renfrewshire's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for grant funding,

from the Scottish Government, to support delivery, by SSHA, of these new affordable homes and provide a mix of housing for social rent and shared equity. It was noted that since approval of the Masterplan, there had been significant changes in the economy and housing market which might affect the tenure and type of new housing which could be delivered in the area. Following a tender exercise, SSHA expected to appoint design consultants to refresh and further develop the Masterplan, taking account of changing circumstances. An update on this work would be submitted to a future meeting of this Policy Board following further consultation over the summer months.

The report stated that Phase 2 of Sanctuary's delivery plan for Paisley West End included the tenements between 24 - 34 Well Street, Paisley, 49 properties in total, of which 37 were owned either by the Council or SSHA. Despite attempts by SSHA, it had not yet been possible to achieve full voluntary acquisition of all private properties in the tenements at 24 - 34 Well Street, Paisley. Information had been shared with the Council by SSHA which demonstrated their level of engagement with owners. Of the 12 properties which remained in private ownership eight were residential, none of which were occupied by resident owners, and four were commercial units, although only 2 were currently trading. Negotiations were continuing and it was anticipated that it might be possible to reach voluntary agreement with some of the remaining owners, however to avoid further delay in progressing demolition and redevelopment, it was now considered appropriate to instigate the promotion and submission to the Scottish Government of a Compulsory Purchase Order, together with all required supporting evidence, in respect of the 12 properties detailed in Table 1 of the report for use in the event it was not possible to secure voluntary acquisition

DECIDED: That the Director of Communities & Housing Services be authorised to pursue the compulsory acquisition by the promotion and submission for confirmation to the Scottish Ministers of Compulsory Purchase Orders in respect of the 12 privately owned properties, identified in Table 1 of the report, to enable the West End Masterplan to be progressed.

8 **Tannahill Area, Ferguslie Park – Housing Regeneration Update**

Under reference to item 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Policy Board held on 27 October 2020 there was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to progress in implementing the housing investment strategy for the Tannahill area of Paisley, including the development of 101 newbuild properties, and also providing an interim update on the Making of Ferguslie community consultation which would inform the development of a wider Development Framework for the Ferguslie Park area.

The report made reference to the decisions taken at the meetings of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board held on 30 October 2018 and the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board held on 4 September 2019 to (i) approve a housing investment strategy for the Tannahill area of Paisley, involving the construction of 101 newbuild Council homes and the preparation of a Development Framework for the wider Ferguslie Park area in consultation with the local community; and (ii) to award a contract to AS Homes (Scotland) Limited for the design and build of 101 new Council dwellings on the site of the former St Fergus' Primary School. It was highlighted that AS Homes (Scotland) had commenced on site with completion of the works expected during winter 2022. Housing applications had begun to be registered for Tannahill tenants and residents noting their housing

needs and preferences to inform rehousing and handover arrangements. Safety and security concerns, raised by local residents and community groups, arising from the increasing proportion of vacant properties in the area were outlined within the report and authority was now sought for an early phase of demolition of wholly vacated blocks, detailed in section 4 of the report, to address these concerns.

To complement the housing investment strategy for Tannahill, this Policy Board had previously agreed that a Development Framework for the wider Ferguslie Park area be prepared in consultation with the local community. During early 2020 and prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, a consultant team led by regeneration specialists Collective Architecture had taken forward a successful series of events. These events had generated a positive and wide-ranging portfolio of views and ideas to inform the Development Framework. As a result of the pandemic, a second phase of consultation on the emerging ideas and potential projects had been delayed and officers had developed alternative approaches for engaging with the local community. It was now planned to progress the second phase of consultation on the framework, the outcomes of which would be reported to a future meeting of the Leadership Board together with the finalised Development Framework.

DECIDED:

(a) That the positive progress on the Tannahill area housing regeneration and that works had begun on 101 new build Council houses be noted; and

(b) That it be agreed that demolition works should be progressed to address the potential safety and security concerns as set out in section 4 of the report.

9 **Private Sector Housing Investment Programme 2021/22**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to the Private Sector Housing Investment Programme requirements for 2021/22.

The report made reference to the decision taken at the meeting of the Council held on 4 March 2021 to approve the report entitled 'Non Housing Capital Investment Programme 2021/22 – 2023/24' which had included funding provision for Capital and Revenue Private Sector Housing Grant (PSHG) expenditure during 2021/22. Based on the Council budget approval and taking account of the most up to date expenditure projections, the report updated the programme requirements for the period 2021/22 to support owner participation on a range of programmes. A copy of the PSHG Investment Programme 2021/22 was appended to the report. The requirement to manage PSHG capital and revenue resource in a flexible manner in terms of the drawdown of funds, to reflect the timing of the settlement of final accounts associated with owners in the Housing Investment Programme was highlighted. In addition it was noted that funds were held in reserve to support owners involved in the Orchard Street Housing Renewal Area tenement refurbishment project, as noted at the meeting of this Policy Board held on 12 March 2019, that the contract for Private Sector Adaptations was due to expire on 31 March 2022 and that the Service was working closely with Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership to procure Care & Repair services after that time.

DECIDED: That the Private Sector Housing Grant Investment Programme 2021/22, as appended to the report, be approved.

10 **Housing to 2040**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to the publication of the Scottish Government's 'Housing to 2040 Strategy' and the accompanying 'Housing to 2040 Vision and Principles' document. An executive summary of the 'Housing to 2040 Strategy' was appended to the report and it was highlighted that both the 'Housing to 2040 Strategy' and accompanying document 'Housing to 2040 Vision & Principles' were available on the Scottish Government's website.

The report advised that the 'Housing to 2040 Strategy' and accompanying 'Housing to 2040 Vision and Principles' document, followed two previous consultation exercises on what housing should look like in the period after 2021, and set out what housing should look like and how it should be delivered for people regardless of tenure, where they lived, or at what point they were at in their lives. The proposed strategy included a range of actions and principles that were aspirational and ambitious with a focus on quality, choice and sustainability across all tenures. The vision that sat alongside the strategy included 15 key principles that underpinned the vision for Housing to 2040. These principles informed the overall vision and contributed to the shaping of future policy to support delivery of the strategy. The strategy was very ambitious and delivery would be challenging and require appropriate financial support, partnership working and buy-in from individual households, the public sector, private sector and across wider society. The key aims and objectives of the Strategy were outlined together with local actions, already taken or progressing, that would contribute to its delivery.

DECIDED: That the publication of the 'Housing to 2040 Strategy' and accompanying 'Housing to 2040 Vision and Principles' document by the Scottish Government be noted.

11 **Proposed Response to UK Government Consultation on Protect Duty**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to the response prepared on behalf of the Council in connection with the UK Government consultation document entitled "Protect Duty Consultation – Making the public safer at publicly accessible locations".

The report advised that the UK Government had published a consultation document entitled "Protect Duty Consultation – Making the public safer at publicly accessible locations", which invited views on the UK Government's approach to improving protective security and preparedness at publicly accessible locations against the threat of terrorism. The deadline for submission of responses to the consultation was 2 July 2021. The proposed Protect Duty legislation would make it a legal requirement for those who "owned or operated publicly accessible locations or others that a 'Protect Duty' would potentially affect" to consider the risk of a terrorist attack and to take steps to protect the public. A publicly accessible location was defined as "any place to which the public or any section of the public had access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission". A summary of the key proposals and discussion issues raised within the consultation document was provided together with the key points outlined within the proposed response. A copy

of the proposed response, prepared on behalf of the Council, was appended to the report.

DECIDED: That the Council's proposed response to the consultation document entitled "Protect Duty Consultation – Making the public safer at publicly accessible locations", issued by the UK Government, a copy of which was appended to the report be approved and submitted in line with required timescales.

12 Planning Applications

There were submitted reports by the Head of Economy & Development relative to the following applications for planning permission that required to be determined by the Board.

(A) 19/0782/PP: Ward 1 - Erection of residential development comprising 142 dwellings and 106 flats with associated access, landscaping and ancillary works at land to east of Clyde View Park, King's Inch Road, Renfrew by Bellway Homes Limited.

Councillor McGurk, seconded by Councillor McNaughtan, moved that the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report and the applicant entering into a Section 75 Agreement relative to the provision of affordable housing within the proposed development and agreement to provide a financial contribution for Education.

Councillor Paterson, seconded by Councillor Nicolson, moved as an amendment that the application be refused for the following reasons;

1. Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) states that "affordable housing is defined as housing of a reasonable quality that is affordable to people on modest incomes and to make housing available at a cost below market value to meet an identified need." This proposal fails to identify the need in the Renfrew sub housing market and crucially the mechanism by which the discounted 'affordable' units will be delivered in the housing area or how the homes discounted will remain discounted during their lifetime. It is contrary to Policy P3 regarding providing and contributing affordable homes in the local area market.
2. Educational provision. The proposals are significant in scale and the impact on the local non-denominational provision is likely to be significant with reduced school capacity and increased traffic on the streets around Kirklandneuk PS. The application fails to address any of these issues in any detail or explain what proposals are being sought to mitigate any impacts.
3. Planning policy states that 'A proactive approach to infrastructure provision is adopted, investigating potential measures to facilitate development delivery along with early discussions with stakeholders to consider the infrastructure requirements of new developments'. No play provision is indicated within the development to add and contribute to the wider provision of children's play within the Braehead area. This runs counter to standard planning policy of the provision of play facilities relative to the scale of development or a commuted sum to provide additional facilities.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Burns, Andy Doig, K MacLaren, Nicolson, Paterson and Rodden.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Binks, Brown, Devine, Graham, J MacLaren, M MacLaren, McGurk, McNaughtan and Sheridan.

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

DECIDED: That the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report and the applicant entering into a Section 75 Agreement relative to the provision of affordable housing within the proposed development and agreement to provide a financial contribution for Education.

(B) 19/0860/PP - Ward 1 - Erection of residential development comprising 18 flats and 39 dwellinghouses at site on north western boundary of No2 Row Avenue, Renfrew by Park Land Group.

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

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved as an amendment that the application be refused for the following reasons;

The proposals fail to take account of the GIRFEC policy principles in ensuring development meets the needs of children with regard to their well-being and welfare.

The proposals are not located in appropriate area with connectivity between residential neighbourhoods as set out by the New Development Supplementary Guidance and Renfrewshire's Places Design Guidance.

The proposals fail to meet the standards of enhancing and creating attractive places in our LDP which aspires to create high quality development. The current proposals are in a highly industrialised and commercialised environment which could have an adverse effect on existing uses and on the residents with regard to amenity from noise and air pollution.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Burns, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, Nicolson, Paterson and Rodden.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Binks, Brown, Doig, Devine, Graham, J MacLaren, McGurk, McNaughtan and Sheridan.

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

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

(C) 19/0626/PP: Ward 10 - Erection of residential development with associated access, landscaping and other associated works at site on southern boundary of Woodend, Houston Road, Houston Johnstone by Cala Homes (West) Limited and Acorn Property Group.

Councillor McGurk, seconded by Councillor McNaughtan, moved that the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report and the

applicant entering into a Section 75 Agreement to secure the delivery mechanisms in relation to affordable housing provision requirements on the site.

Councillor Doig, seconded by Councillor Rodden, moved as an amendment that the application be refused for the following reasons;

The proposal was contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework 4, being an inappropriate development in the greenbelt which would fail to promote biodiversity or bring about health and climate benefits;

The proposal would result in an unacceptable increase in traffic volume creating congestion and likely to inhibit cycling in the local area;

The proposal would lead to an increase in demand for school places beyond local capacity; and

The proposal would result in a loss of established trees.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Andy Doig, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, Paterson and Rodden.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Binks, Brown, Burns, Devine, Graham, J MacLaren, McGurk, McNaughtan, Nicolson and Sheridan.

5 members having voted for the amendment and 10 members having voted for the motion, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: That the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report and the applicant entering into a Section 75 Agreement to secure the delivery mechanisms in relation to affordable housing provision requirements on the site.

(D) 20/0510/PP: Ward 6 - Erection of residential development comprising of 179 units with associated access, landscaping and ancillary works at Thornly Park Campus, 125 Caplethill Road, Paisley by University of the West of Scotland

The Convener proposed that consideration of the application be refused for the reasons detailed in the report and, in addition, as the development did not include appropriate safe routes to school. This was agreed.

DECIDED: That the application be refused for the reasons detailed in the report and as the development did not include appropriate safe routes to school.

(E) 20/0631/PP: Ward 12 - Erection of recycling shed and increase in throughput of recycling material from 22,575 tonnes to a maximum of 75,000 tonnes at 6 Newmains Avenue, Renfrew by WRC Recycling.

Councillor Nicolson proposed that the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report, with an alteration to condition 1 as undernoted and the following additional condition:

1. That all activities associated with the sorting and processing of waste materials shall be undertaken entirely within a building envelope. Waste materials including those that have been processed shall not be stored within external yard

areas.

2. That planning permission be granted for a trial period of 2 years from the date of this permission in the interest of the visual amenity of Inchinnan Business Park and surrounding area and to allow monitoring to occur as to the operation of the site.

This was agreed.

DECIDED: That that the application be granted subject to the conditions and reasons detailed within the report, an alteration to condition 1 as undernoted and the following additional condition:

1. That all activities associated with the sorting and processing of waste materials shall be undertaken entirely within a building envelope. Waste materials including those that have been processed shall not be stored within external yard areas.

2. That planning permission be granted for a trial period of 2 years from the date of this permission in the interest of the visual amenity of Inchinnan Business Park and surrounding area and to allow monitoring to occur as to the operation of the site.

(F) 20/0793/PP: Ward 7 - Erection of a grid stability facility including grid stability unit with associated ancillary equipment, access, landscaping, drainage, car parking, operations centre and boundary enclosures at Neilston Grid Electricity Sub-station Complex, Gleniffer Road, Paisley by WP Grid Services Limited.

Councillor McNaughtan, seconded by Councillor McGurk, moved that consideration of the application be continued for a site visit. This was agreed.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued for a site visit.

Note of Inquorate Meeting Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee

| Date | Time | Venue |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Tuesday, 16 March, 2021 | 15.00 | Microsoft Teams |

1. QUORUM

Ten minutes after the appointed time for the meeting a quorum was not present and in terms of Standing Order 52 the meeting stood adjourned.

Minute of Meeting

Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee

| Date | Time | Venue |
|------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Tuesday, 23 March 2021 | 10:00 | Remotely using Teams., |

Meeting

This is the re-convened meeting from 16 March 2021 which was unable to proceed.

Present

Councillors B Binks, B Brown, M McGurk, M MacLaren, and J McNaughtan.

Chair

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection and C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager (all Communities & Housing Services); D Pole, End User Technician; K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer and R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

J Kyle, Chief Inspector (Police Scotland); J McNeill, Area Commander and M Hill, Group Manager, (both Scottish Fire & Rescue Service).

Declarations of Interest

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

Recording of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Sub-committee would be recorded and that the recording would be available to view on the Council's website.

Order of Business

In terms of Standing Order 16, the Convener intimated that she proposed to alter the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting by considering item 1 of the agenda after items 2, 3 and 4 of the agenda.

1 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Renfrewshire Performance Report/Scorecard

There was submitted a report, in an infographics format, by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) relative to SFRS performance in the Renfrewshire area during the three month reporting period to end of January 2021.

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

There was a reduction in deliberate fires (32 fewer), refuse fires (15 fewer) and non-refuse fires (3 fewer) against the three month average.

The Group Manager advised that this information was provided to all Scottish Fire & Rescue Service personnel on an ongoing basis and was presented to the sub-committee for information as the timing of the scrutiny report normally provided did not coincide with the date of this meeting. The Scrutiny Report in its normal format which included more details and breakdown of figures for ward areas would be presented to the next scheduled meeting of this sub-committee.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (b) That the Scrutiny report in the normal format, with more detailed information, be presented to the next scheduled meeting of this sub-committee.

2 Spotlight on Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)/TAKE-5

The Local Senior Officer advised that arrangements regarding implementation of the TAKE5 (Testing, Aerosols, Knowledge, Equipment and 5 (seconds or minutes)) initiative within the Renfrewshire area were progressing. Information was provided on the number of unwanted fire alarm signals together with details on how TAKE5 was an initiative used to significantly reduce these numbers and associated costs. The reduction, by educating, of unwanted fire alarm signals would enable more meaningful work and other community engagement, reduce impact on businesses and reduce the costs associated with unwanted fire alarm signals.

DECIDED: That information on progress and impact of TAKE5 implementation be presented to a future meeting of the sub-committee.

3 Spotlight on Spring Season Thematic Action Plan

The Group Manager advised that a Spring Season Thematic Action Plan had been developed to address the changes in risk profiles and would be advertised on television and local media. A revised wild fire strategy had also been developed to address the potential increase in these type of fires.

The Sub-committee was advised that the combination of Covid-19 restrictions being lifted and the improvement in weather would lead to a rise in outdoor activities, the potential increase in deliberate fires, wild fires and open water activities and the Spring Season Thematic Plan had been developed to address these changes.

DECIDED: That the information provided by noted.

4 Police Scotland Scrutiny Board Report

There was submitted a report by the Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland, relative to service performance and activities in the Renfrewshire area during the period 1 April to 31 December 2020.

The report summarised the key performance indicators and provided statistics relating to the specific key objectives detailed in the Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2020/21, together with comparative data. The report provided, in an infographics format, local updates in relation to the Police Scotland priorities of violence and anti-social behaviour; acquisitive crime; public protection; major crime and terrorism and road safety and road crime.

The report was highlighted that there had been an overall downward trend in both serious and minor violence crimes with a decrease of 11.2% in Group 1 crimes which equated to 26 fewer victims, 180 fewer common assaults and 28 fewer serious assaults recorded than in the same period last year. A decrease of 13.4% in the previous in acquisitive crime was also reported, mainly driven by the fall in reported common theft and theft by shoplifting. There had been 204 assaults on emergency workers, which was an increase on 5 on previous year, and Your Safety Matters Campaign was being implemented to support those affected.

A decrease by 9.9% in domestic abuse crimes was reported compared to the same period during 2019 with increased detection rate for domestic crimes and offences from 63.6% in the previous year, to 69.7% in the current period.

The Covid-19 pandemic had provided additional opportunities for cybercriminals to target victims and it was noted that cyber-crimes had increased with significant amounts of money involved. It was emphasised that although 15 bogus crimes had been reported during this period, five more than the previous year, this figure was likely to be higher as victims did not always report this type of crime.

The Chief Inspector advised the sub-committee of the Police Scotland Take 5 to Stop Fraud initiative which could be used to help individuals and businesses stay safe from fraud and provided information on how to stop, challenge and protect from fraud. Leaflets on this initiative had been distributed throughout Renfrewshire.

An update was provided on Police Scotland activity in relation to the on-going Covid-19 restrictions which advised there had been an increase in all categories of breaches since the last reporting period.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

5 Local Issues

Councillor McNaughtan advised the sub-committee that he was aware of significant increase on graffiti activity in Renfrewshire. The Communities & Regulatory Manager advised that the Street Scene, Warden and Team up to Clean up teams were actively working to address this.

Councillor M MacLaren advised of concerns about a recent case where a councillor's house had been attacked and asked whether there were procedures which may be in place to protect councillors or their premises from attack. The Convener advised the sub-committee that she would pursue this situation with the Chief Executive. The Head of Communities & Public Protection advised that there were procedures in place to address this and would liaise with the Head of Corporate Governance to provide further details to all councillors on these protocols.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the information provided by the Communities & Regulatory Manager in relation to graffiti be noted;
- (b) That the Convener advise the Chief Executive of concerns raised; and
- (c) That further information and guidance would be provided to all councillors in relation to threats/attacks to councillors.

Minute of Meeting

Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel

| Date | Time | Venue |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Wednesday, 19 May 2021 | 10:00 | Remotely by MS Teams, |

Present: Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor, Ms Elaine McNamara, Councillor Jim Sharkey

In Attendance

D Briggs, Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Advice) and P Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer (both Finance & Resources).

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest 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 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 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

1 **Ralston Primary School - Appeal against Refusal of a Placing Request - RP 21/01**

Consideration was given to appeals against the refusal of placing requests at Ralston Primary School.

All participants had been invited to attend virtually by means of MS Teams. E Clements, Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Advice), (Finance and Resources), S Gorman, Resource Support Manager (Children's Services) both representing the Education Authority, were invited to attend the meeting together with J McGown, Headteacher. The appellants in relation to appeals, RP/21/01, RP/21/02, RP/21/03 RP/21/04, RP/21/05, RP21/06 and RP/21/07 were invited into the meeting.

D Briggs Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Advice) outlined the procedure to be followed in hearing the appeals.

E Clements Senior Solicitor, (Litigation & Advice) then presented the case for the Education Authority and led evidence from S Gorman and J McGown in relation to the circumstances surrounding the refusal of the placing requests.

The appellants in relation to appeals RP/21/02, RP/21/03, RP/21/04, RP/21/05, RP/21/06 and RP/21/07 then left the hearing.

The appellants in relation to appeal RP/21/01 then presented 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.

2 **Ralston Primary School - Appeal against Refusal of a Placing Request - RP 21/02**

Consideration was given to appeal RP/21/02 against the refusal of a placing request to Ralston Primary School.

E Clements, Senior Solicitor, (Litigation & Advice), S Gorman, Resource Support Manager (Children's Services), and J McGown, Headteacher were invited into the meeting together with the appellant.

The appellant in relation to appeal RP/21/02 then presented her 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.

3 Ralston Primary School - Appeal against Refusal of a Placing Request - RP 21/03

Consideration was given to appeal RP/21/03 against the refusal of a placing request to Ralston Primary School.

E Clements, Senior Solicitor, (Litigation & Advice), S Gorman, Resource Support Manager (Children's Services), and J McGown, Headteacher were invited into the meeting together with the appellants.

The appellant in relation to appeal RP/21/03 then presented her 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.

4 Ralston Primary School - Appeal against Refusal of a Placing Request - RP 21/04

Consideration was given to appeal RP/21/04 against the refusal of a placing request to Ralston Primary School.

E Clements, Senior Solicitor, (Litigation & Advice), S Gorman, Resource Support Manager (Children's Services), and J McGown, Headteacher were invited into the meeting together with the appellants.

The appellant in relation to appeal RP/21/04 then presented her 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.

5 Ralston Primary School - Appeal against Refusal of a Placing Request - RP 21/05

Consideration was given to appeal RP/21/05 against the refusal of a placing request to Ralston Primary School.

E Clements, Senior Solicitor, (Litigation & Advice), S Gorman, Resource Support

Manager (Children's Services), and J McGown, Headteacher were invited into the meeting together with the appellants.

The appellants in relation to appeal RP/21/05 then presented 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.

6 **Ralston Primary School - Appeal against Refusal of a Placing Request - RP 21/06**

Consideration was given to appeal RP/21/06 against the refusal of a placing request to Ralston Primary School.

E Clements, Senior Solicitor, (Litigation & Advice), S Gorman, Resource Support Manager (Children's Services), and J McGown, Headteacher were invited into the meeting together with the appellants.

The appellant in relation to appeal RP/21/06 then presented her 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.

7 **Ralston Primary School - Appeal against Refusal of a Placing Request -RP 21/07**

Consideration was given to appeal RP/21/07 against the refusal of a placing request to Ralston Primary School.

E Clements, Senior Solicitor, (Litigation & Advice), S Gorman, Resource Support Manager (Children's Services), and J McGown, Headteacher were invited into the meeting together with the appellants.

The appellant in relation to appeal RP/21/07 then presented her 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.

Minute of Meeting

Regulatory Functions Board

| Date | Time | Venue |
|------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Wednesday, 19 May 2021 | 10:00 | Remotely by MS Teams , |

Present: Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Alistair Mackay, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Kevin Montgomery, Councillor Andy Steel, Councillor Jane Strang

Chair

Councillor McNaughtan, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

D Campbell, Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing), R Graham, Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Regulatory Services), E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer, E Gray, Senior Committee Services Officer, A Easdon, Team Leader (Licensing) (for items 1 to 6 only), G McIntosh, Civic Government Enforcement Officer (for items 1 and 7 only), K Marriott, Administrative Assistant (for items 7 and 8 only), and R McCallum, Administrative Assistant (for items 1 to 6 only) (all Finance & Resources).

Recording of Meeting

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

Apologies

Councillors Audrey Doig and Rodden.

Declarations of Interest

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

1 Variations of Private Hire Car Operators' Licences - Personal Appearances

There were submitted the undernoted applications for variation of Private Hire Car Operators' Licences. The applicants had been asked to appear personally for the first time:-

(a) Applicant: Lorraine Wood

Variation: exception to policy and standard condition 1

Licence No.: PH0891

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Ms Wood, the applicant, who had previously indicated that she wished her application to be determined by way of written submissions. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that Ms Wood's application for variation be granted and that standard condition 1 of her licence be amended to enable Ms Wood to operate her present vehicle, registration number FG14 JPJ, for a period of one year from 19 May 2021, subject to the vehicle being tested at three-monthly intervals with the first inspection being carried out within 28 days from 19 May 2021. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That Ms Wood's application for variation be granted and that standard condition 1 of her licence be amended to enable Ms Wood to operate her present vehicle, registration number FG14 JPJ, for a period of one year from 19 May 2021, subject to the vehicle being tested at three-monthly intervals with the first inspection being carried out within 28 days from 19 May 2021.

(b) Applicant: Thomas Stein

Variation: exception to policy and standard condition 1

Licence No.: PH1172

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Stein, the applicant, who had previously indicated that he wished his application to be determined by way of written submissions. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that Mr Stein's application for variation be granted and that standard condition 1 of his licence be amended to enable Mr Stein to operate his present vehicle, registration number SD14 UWL, for a period of one year from 19 May 2021, subject to the vehicle being tested at three-monthly intervals with the first inspection being carried out within 28 days from 19 May 2021. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That Mr Stein's application for variation be granted and that standard condition 1 of his licence be amended to enable Mr Stein to operate his present vehicle, registration number SD14 UWL, for a period of one year from 19 May 2021, subject to the vehicle being tested at three-monthly intervals with the first inspection being carried out within 28 days from 19 May 2021.

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 this first time:-

Applicant: TH UK & Ireland Limited
 Premises: Tim Hortons, Linwood Road, Paisley
 Authorised goods: restaurant
 Operating hours: Monday to Sunday – 24 hours

Mr McPhail, on behalf of 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 and that the applicant be allowed 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 one year and that the applicant be allowed to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours.

3 **Renewal of Late Hours Catering Licences**

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

(a) Applicant: TH UK & Ireland Limited
 Premises: Tim Hortons, 113 Paisley Retail Park, Renfrew Road, Paisley
 Authorised goods: café restaurant
 Operating hours: Monday to Sunday – 11.00 pm to 5.00 am
 Licence No.: LHC113

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

(b) Applicant: Select Service Partner UK Limited
 Premises: Starbucks, Main International Departures Lounge, Glasgow Airport
 Authorised goods: catering, including but not limited to, teas/coffees, hot and cold food
 Operating hours: Monday to Sunday – 11.00 pm to 5.00 am
 Licence No.: LHC041

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

(c) Applicant: Krispy Kreme UK Limited
 Premises: Intu Braehead Retail Park, Kings Inch Road, Glasgow
 Authorised goods: doughnuts and drinks
 Operating hours: Monday to Sunday – 11.00 pm to 5.00 am
 Licence No.: LHC114

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

(d) Applicant: Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc
Premises: 30 Napier Street, Johnstone
Authorised goods: supermarket
Operating hours: Monday to Sunday – 11.00 pm to 5.00 am
Licence No.: LHC086

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

(e) Applicant: Mohammad Haldar
Premises: Papa John's, 58 Glasgow Road, Paisley
Authorised goods: pizza takeaway
Operating hours: Monday to Sunday – 11.00 pm to 2.00 am

The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that the operating hours requested were 11.00 pm to 2.00 am and not 5.00 am as stated on the agenda.

The Convener proposed that the application be granted for a period of two years and that the applicant continue to be allowed 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 allowed 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 Private Hire Car Drivers' Licences - Personal Appearances

There were submitted the undernoted applications for grant of Private Hire Car Drivers' Licences. The applicants had been asked to appear personally for the first time:-

(a) Arsalan Ahmed Azeem

Mr Azeem, 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.

(b) Muhammad Shahid

Mr Shahid, the applicant, joined the meeting by telephone 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) Mahmood Sajid

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Sajid, the applicant, who had previously indicated that he wished his application to be determined by way of written submissions. 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.

5 **Renewal of Late Hours Catering Licence**

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

Applicant: McDonalds Restaurants Limited
Premises: Phoenix Retail Park, Linwood Road, Linwood
Authorised goods: burgers, fries, coffees, soft drinks etc
Operating hours: Monday to Sunday – 11.00 pm to 5.00 am
Licence No.: LHC016

The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that the operating hours requested were 11.00 pm to 5.00 am and not 2.00 am as stated on the agenda.

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

6 **Surrender and Re-issue of Taxi Operator's Licence**

There was submitted the undernoted application for the surrender and re-issue of a Taxi Operator's Licence:-

Present operator: Thomas Baggley
 Proposed operator: James Kilgour
 Licence No.: TX012

The Convener proposed that the application be granted. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11.00 am and reconvened at 1.30 pm.

Sederunt

Councillors Devine, Hughes, McEwan and Montgomery were not in attendance when the meeting reconvened.

7 Hearing into Possible Suspension or Revocation of Private Hire Car Driver's Licence - Personal Appearance

The Board considered the possible suspension or revocation of the undernoted Private Hire Car Driver's Licence. The licence holder had been asked to appear personally for the first time together with Police Scotland:-

Licence holder: Anwar Ul-Haq Shafi
 Licence No.: P0724

Mr Shafi, the licence holder, joined the meeting by video call together with Sergeant Robertson, on behalf of the Chief Constable, who also joined by video call. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) asked Mr Shafi if he wished to address the Board on any penalty the Board might impose prior to any motions being made in relation to his Private Hire Car Driver's Licence. Mr Shafi then addressed the Board.

Following consideration of Mr Shafi's submission, the meeting adjourned to allow members to consider the matter. The meeting was reconvened. The Convener proposed that Mr Shafi's Private Hire Car Driver's Licence be suspended for the unexpired portion of the duration of the licence with immediate effect. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That Mr Shafi's Private Hire Car Driver's Licence be suspended for the unexpired portion of the duration of the licence with immediate effect.

8 Applications for Landlord Registration - Personal Appearances

There were submitted the undernoted applications for Landlord Registration. The applicants had been asked to appear personally for the first time together with Police Scotland who had submitted a report in relation to application (a) and the Council's Director of Communities & Housing Services who had submitted a report in relation to application (b):-

(a) Darren Coyle

Mr Coyle, the applicant, and his Solicitor, Mr Sweeney, both joined the meeting by video call, together with Sergeant Robertson, on behalf of the Chief Constable, who had submitted a report in relation to the application, who also joined by video call. 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.

(b) Dariush Mirzajani

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Mirzajani. Mr Hunter, on behalf of the Council's Director of Communities & Housing Services, who had submitted a report in relation to the application, joined the meeting by video call. The Convener proposed that the application be considered in Mr Mirzajani's absence. This was agreed unanimously. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the application be refused. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be refused.

Minute of Meeting

Education and Children's Services Policy Board

| Date | Time | Venue |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------|
| Thursday, 20 May 2021 | 13:00 | Teams meeting, |

Present: Ms Mary Jane Bird, Provost Lorraine Cameron, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Edward Grady, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Karen Kennedy, Councillor Scott Kerr, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Will Mylet, Mr Jack Nellaney, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor John Shaw, Mr Ravinder Singh, Councillor Jane Strang

Chair

Councillor Paterson, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

J Calder, Head of Service (Curriculum and Quality), G McKinlay, Head of Schools, J Trainer, Head of Childcare & Criminal Justice (all Children's Services); G McLachlan, Senior Finance Manager, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, R Devine, E Grey and P Shiach, Senior Democratic Services Officers, D Pole, End User Technician (all Finance & Resources).

Also Attending

D Walker and T Durning (Renfrewshire Children's Services Champions Board).

Recording of Meeting

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

Apology

Councillor Rodden.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Graham declared a non-financial interest in item 6 of the agenda as he was a volunteer with Barnardos and intimated that it was his intention to remain in the meeting and take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report

There was submitted a joint revenue and capital budget monitoring report by the Directors of Children's Services and Finance & Resources for the period to 5 March 2021.

The report projected a revenue underspend of £0.094 million and a breakeven position in respect capital as at 31 March 2021 for Children's Services. It was noted that for financial year 2020/21 the projected outturn position was split into core and Covid-19 related variances.

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 this point in time. The service would continue to apply the flexibility within specific grant funding permitted by the Scottish Government in order to achieve a breakeven revenue outturn position; and

(b) That the projected capital outturn position for Children's Services detailed in Table 1 of the report be noted.

2 Children's Services Health Safety and Well Being Strategy 2019-2022 Update

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the annual update of the Children's Services Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2019/20 which had been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic; and to the 2020/21 Strategy which, both of which were attached as appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

The report intimated that the Council's health and safety strategy placed a responsibility on each service to prepare an annual report evaluating the management of health and safety within the service. Children's Services had a proactive approach to health and safety as evidenced by the attainment of accreditation and certification to BS OHSAS 18001:2007 which measured the suitability and effectiveness of the Service's occupational health and safety management systems. The update demonstrated the Service's commitment to continuous improvement in health and

safety performances and summarised the achievements to March 2021 for Children's Services.

The report referred to the Duty of Candour process which was currently in place.

DECIDED:

(a) That the progress of the Children's Services Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019/22 be noted;

(b) That the progress of the Children's Services Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020/21 be noted; and

(c) That the inclusion of Duty of Candour Incidents process in the Children's Services Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019/22 be approved.

3 **Children's Services Service Improvement Plan 2020/21 Outturn Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Children's Services Service Improvement Plan 2020/21 outturn report which provided an update on the performance of Children's Services for the 12-month period.

The report intimated that in March 2020 the Service had identified key actions that it aimed to achieve over the following three years. However, given the unprecedented nature of events in 2020/21 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, these three-year plans had been curtailed and replaced by service delivery plans which covered a single year. The report highlighted the key achievements of 2020/21; progress against performance measures and included details of those actions delayed or cancelled as a result of Covid-19 restrictions and/or the need to refocus service priorities in order to manage the pandemic response.

DECIDED:

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

(b) That the achievements of Children's Services during 2020/21 which fell within the remit of this Board be noted; and

(c) That it be noted that an outturn report was presented to the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board at its meeting held on 18 May 2021 in respect of service areas falling within the remit of that Board.

4 **West Partnership Improvement Collaborative: Interim Improvement Plan**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the West Partnership Improvement Collaborative's Interim Improvement Plan.

The report intimated that the West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) was made up of the eight authorities: East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and

West Dunbartonshire Councils. The Improvement Plan set out the key areas for collaborative action to bring about improvement across the partnership region and captured those areas where collaboration amongst the partners would be beneficial. It was noted that not all schools or councils would participate in all activities, but the plan set out the RIC's offer based on stakeholder views and as such the plan did not replicate or duplicate the improvement plans of each partner council. The report detailed how the Plan was organised including key areas and an interim action plan.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

5 **Mid-year Scottish Attainment Challenge Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Scottish Attainment Challenge mid-year report.

The report intimated that in 2016 Renfrewshire had become one of nine challenge authorities. As part of the grant requirements a bi-annual report was submitted to the Scottish Government which outlined progress towards the three long-term outcomes of improving learning and teaching; improving health and wellbeing and closing the poverty-related attainment gap. The report highlighted the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic including the changes in working practices and routines. However, despite this, the Attainment Challenge continued to build on progress and all workstreams had adapted and continued to deliver quality, evidence-based approaches.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Graham, having previously declared an interest in the following item, remained in the meeting.

6 **Scottish Attainment Challenge Impact Report 2015-2020**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) Impact Report which covered the five-year period from 2015 to 2020.

As detailed in Minute item 5 above, Renfrewshire became one of nine challenge authorities in 2016 with the overarching aim of closing the poverty-related attainment gap. As part of the overall scrutiny of the programme, the Council in collaboration with Education Scotland produced a five-year report providing detail and evidence to 34 questions and provided qualitative and quantitative answers in respect of how implementation of SAC impacted upon the culture and systems of local authorities to ensure equity for children, young people and families affected by poverty; how SAC had positively impacted upon or contributed to educational outcomes for children and young people affected by poverty; and which lessons had been learned and what were the future priorities for SAC. The report detailed progress made and the next steps for the programme.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

7 **Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy for Education Establishments**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to a mental health and wellbeing policy for education establishments across Renfrewshire to support the work establishments were doing around mental health and wellbeing.

The report intimated that the policy would ensure that all education staff working with children and young people in Renfrewshire were provided with the necessary information and self-evaluation framework to plan for improvement whilst also identifying the effective practice already in place. The policy provided a template and outlined universal and targeted approaches to support the mental health of children and young people as well as signposting them, staff and parents to sources of support. Training opportunities for staff were also highlighted. It was noted that there was a version of the policy for secondary schools and the other for primary/early years establishments.

DECIDED: That the content of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy for Education Establishments be noted as a helpful digital policy document to support consistency and high quality practice across Renfrewshire educational establishments.

8 **SQA Alternative Certification Model**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) alternative certification model.

The report intimated that on 7 October 2020 it was announced that the planned diet of SQA National 5 sessions for 2021 would be cancelled. This was followed by the announcement on 9 December 2020 that the planned diet of SQA Higher and Advanced Higher examinations for 2021 were also to be cancelled. Schools have been asked to take the lead on determining provisional grades based on assessment evidence, something which had never happened before. The revised alternative certificate model (ACM) for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher was published in February 2021 and the report intimated that schools were working to ensure the successful implementation of the ACM. Pupil awards would be based solely on their demonstrated attainment subject to: internal centre-level moderation; subject-level moderation, either through local authority or regional improvement collaborative networks; review of summary data by centre senior leaders; and review of summary data by the central education team.

DECIDED: That the arrangements for and progress of the implementation of the Alternative Certification Model in Renfrewshire as part of the 2021 certification process be noted.

9 **School Holiday Arrangements School Session 2022-2023**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to proposed school holiday arrangements for the school session beginning August 2022.

The report intimated that in line with consultation arrangements three possible

proposals were circulated to staff, parent and pupil councils, teaching and other trades unions for consideration. The school holiday proposal preferred by the majority of consultees was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report with Appendices 2 and 3 showing the holiday patterns less favoured. Appendix 4 provided a summary of consultation responses.

DECIDED: That the Director of Children's Services be authorised to set school holiday arrangements for academic year 2022/23 in line with Appendix 1 to the report.

10 **Age of Criminal Responsibility Act**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Age of Criminal Responsibility Act which received Royal Assent on 11 June 2019.

The report intimated that the Act had been implemented on an incremental basis, the next stage of which would increase the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland from 8 to 12 which aligned with the minimum age of criminal prosecution in Scotland. The target date for implementation was autumn 2021, and would mean that children under 12 would no longer be charged with criminal offences, would no longer be stigmatised by being criminalised at a young age, labelled as an 'offender' or disadvantaged by having convictions for the purposes of disclosure which could adversely affect them later in life. It was noted that the number of children under the age of 12 so charged in Renfrewshire had been low historically with approximately 20 children being charged each year with criminal offences. It was noted that staff training and multi-agency professional guidance would be undertaken to support the change in legislation and practise.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 received Royal Assent on 11 June 2019;

(b) That it be noted that since 29 November 2019 children under the age of 12 could no longer be referred to a children's hearing on offence grounds;

(c) That it be noted that the age of criminal responsibility would increase from 8 to 12 in the autumn of 2021; and

(d) That it be noted that multi-agency professional guidance and training would be provided to assist staff in discharging the change in practise.

11 **The National Joint Investigative Interviewing (JII) Project**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the National Joint Investigative Interviewing (JII) Project which had been established to develop a new approach to the joint investigative interviewing of children in Scotland. A JII was undertaken by a police officer and a social worker when it was suspected that a child had been subject to some form of abuse.

The report intimated that the aims of the new approach were to improve the quality of experience of child victims and witnesses, minimise re-traumatisation and improve the quality of evidence gathered to prevent the need for these children to have to give

evidence in person as part of a court process. The new approach was called the Scottish Child Interview Model, the pilot phase of which had begun in 2019 involving six local authorities and three police divisions with two further pilot sites commencing in 2020/21 involving another two local authorities. The first pilots were now live with the two final pilot sites expected to go live later this year. Renfrewshire Council was participating in the North Strathclyde Pilot together with East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils, Police Divisions G and K, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Paisley, Glasgow Dunbartonshire and Greenock Sheriff Courts, and North Strathclyde Scottish Children's Reporter Administration. Children 1st was also a partner.

DECIDED:

- (a) That Renfrewshire's involvement in the North Strathclyde Pilot be noted; and
- (b) That it be noted that a further report on implications for policy and practice in Renfrewshire would be submitted to this Board once the pilot had concluded.

12 **Keeping Brother and Sisters Together**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the issue of children who were accommodated by local authorities being placed in separate placements from their siblings which had been identified by the Independent Care Review as an area which required attention.

The report intimated that the Renfrewshire Children's Champions Board had carried out a survey to obtain the views of care-experienced young people in Renfrewshire and had produced the report "Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together" which was attached as appendix 1 to the report, and had developed a policy for Renfrewshire, appendix 2 to the report, which contained the pledge "When children come into care Renfrewshire will place brothers and sisters together". However, the report recognised that there would be times when brothers and sisters wouldn't be placed together and this was reflected in the policy.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the leadership of the Children's Champions Board on the production of their report "Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together" be acknowledged; and
- (b) That the policy on keeping brothers and sisters together which had been developed on a coproduction basis by the Children's Champions Board and Children's Services be approved.

Minute of Meeting

Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board

| Date | Time | Venue |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| Monday, 24 May 2021 | 10:00 | Remotely via Microsoft Teams, |

Present: Councillor Tom Begg, Councillor Bill Binks, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Jim Sharkey, Councillor Jane Strang

Chair

Councillor Bill Binks, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning and N Irvine-Brown, Policy Lead, Performance & Quality (both Chief Executive's); G McKinlay, Head of Schools, (Senior Phase & Inclusion), Children's Services; G Hutton, Head of Operations & Infrastructure (Environment & Infrastructure Services); A MacArthur, Head of Finance, A McMahon, Chief Auditor, K Campbell, Assistant Chief Auditor, E Shields, Business Services Manager, S Fanning, Principal HR and OD Adviser, Andrew Connor, Records Manager, D Pole, End User Technician, P Shiach and C MacDonald, both Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources); and C O'Byrne, Head of Health & Social Care (Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership).

Also in Attendance

M Ferris, Audit Scotland.

Apologies

Councillors Harte, Hood and Rodden.

Declarations of Interest

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

1 **Summary of Internal Audit Reports for period 01 January to 30 April 2021**

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, engagement and 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 January to 30 April 2021.

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 Renfrewshire Leisure Limited and Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board, coordination of the Council's Corporate Risk Management activity and management of the counter fraud, risk management and insurance team.

DECIDED: That the summary of Audit findings report for the period 1 January to 30 April 2021 be noted.

2 **Internal Audit Annual Report 2020/21**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Auditor relative to the annual report on the activities of the Council's Internal Audit section which was attached as an appendix to the report.

The report intimated that the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) required that the Chief Auditor prepared a report at least annually to senior management and the Board on internal audit activity, purpose, authority and responsibility as well as performance relative to its plan. The annual report also provided an annual audit opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control environment and included details of any significant risk exposures, control issues and other matters that could be used to inform the governance statement. The annual report for 2020/21 outlined the role of internal audit; its performance; the strategic and operational issues which influenced the nature of the work carried out; the key audit findings; and contained the annual audit assurance statement.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

3 **Unaudited Annual Governance Statement 2020/21**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 which was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Governance Statement for 2020/21 had been prepared in accordance with the relevant regulation and guidance and took account of the Internal Audit Annual Report and Director's evaluation of the operation of the governance arrangements within each service area.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the Annual Governance Statement would be included in the Unaudited Accounts for 2020/21.

4 **Annual Review of Compliance with the Local Code of Corporate Governance 2020**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the annual review of the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance (the Code) which was based on the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: The Framework which set the standard for local authority governance in the UK and which was revised by CIPFA and Solace in 2016 to ensure it remained fit for purpose.

The code covered the seven core principles which brought together the main elements of Council business and these were highlighted within the report and evidence of how the Council complied with the updated Code was attached as an appendix to the report. It was noted that the evidence presented in the appendix reflected the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on the Council's governance arrangements over the last year. The evidence demonstrated that strong governance arrangements had remained and were in place within the Council, and the Councillors and Officers were working together to lead and manage the Council in order to provide vital public services.

DECIDED: That the Council's compliance with the Local Code of Corporate Governance as set out in the appendix to the report be noted.

5 **Absence Statistics – Quarter 4 of 2020/21**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the Council's absence statistics for the period ending 31 March 2021.

The report provided information in relation to absence targets and how services and categories of staff had performed against them. An analysis of the reasons for absence for the period was included in the report. Information was also provided on supporting attendance activity levels by service and costs of sick pay and the overall number of days lost.

DECIDED: That the report on absence statistics for the period ending 31 March 2021 be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Board resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item 6 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 paragraphs 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

6 Summary of Internal Audit Investigation Reports for period 01 January to 30 April 2021

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 reported on the findings and conclusions of audit engagements to the Board. The appendix to the report provided a summary of the findings of four internal audit investigations.

DECIDED: That the summary of Audit Reports finalised during the period from 1 January to 30 April 2021 be noted.

Minute of Meeting

Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

| Date | Time | Venue |
|------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| Wednesday, 26 May 2021 | 13:00 | Microsoft TEAMS Platform, |

Present: Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Jacqueline Cameron, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Karen Kennedy, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor Will Mylet, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Sharkey

Chair

Councillor McEwan, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

G McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure; G Crawford, Senior Communications Officer (Chief Executive's); O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection and C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager (both Communities & Housing Services); G Hutton, Head of Operations & Infrastructure, K Anderson, Amenity Services Manager - Waste, G Hannah, Strategic Change Manager, G Ternent, Technical Officer, S Heron, Facilities Manager (Soft Services) and L Rennie, Operations Manager (all Environment & Infrastructure); and J Lynch, Head of Property Services, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, D Pole, End User Technician and R Devine and C MacDonald, both Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources).

Recording of Meeting

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

Welcome

The Convener welcomed Councillors Campbell and Nicolson to their first meeting of the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board since their appointment as Depute Convener and member of the Policy Board respectively.

Apology

Councillor Kerr.

Declarations of Interest

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

1 Minute of Community Asset Transfer Review Sub-committee

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Community Asset Transfer Review Sub-committee held on 26 April 2021.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report

There was submitted a joint Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring report by the Directors of Finance & Resources, Environment & Infrastructure and Communities & Housing Services for the period 1 April 2020 to 5 March 2021.

The report stated that the projected revenue outturn as at 31 March 2021 for all services reporting to this Policy Board was an overspend position of £2.496 million against the revised budget for the year, with £3.080 million of expenditure directly attributable to the Covid-19 pandemic response. The projected capital outturn as at 31 March 2021 for projects reporting to the Board was a breakeven position against the revised budget for the year. Summaries were provided over the relevant services in the tables within the report, together with further analysis. It was noted that for financial year 2020/21 the projected outturn position was split into core and Covid-19 related variances. The report highlighted budget adjustments totalling £103,000, relating to internal Service budget realignments for services relating to other Policy Boards and with a nil effect to overall budgets. In addition it was noted that there had been Capital budget adjustments of £2.712 million since the previous report, comprising a budget increase of £0.046 million for Underwood Depot Workshop Improvements, a budget reduction of £0.030 million for Strathclyde Passenger Transport and budget carry forwards from 2020/21 to 2021/22 of £0.249 million in the Roads/Footways Upgrade Programme; £0.054 million in relation to the Bridge Assessment/Strengthening budget; £0.269 million for the Lighting Columns Replacement Programme; £0.936 million in respect of Traffic Management; £0.44 million in relation to the Core Pathways and Cycle Network budget; and £0.950 million for the Vehicle Replacement Programme, processed since consideration of the previous report.

Councillor McEwan, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved (a) that the projected Revenue outturn position as detailed in table 1 of the report, acknowledging that the forecast position was based on best estimates at this point in time, 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 5 of the report, be noted.

Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor Hood, moved as an amendment that (a) that the projected Revenue outturn position as detailed in table 1 of the report, acknowledging that the forecast position was based on best estimates at this point in time, 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 5 of the report, be noted and calls on the SPT not to use any funds to facilitate the bus cuts that were opposed by this Council on 13 May 2021.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Devine, Graham, Hood, Kennedy, J MacLaren and Sharkey.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Burns, Cameron, Campbell, Audrey Doig, McEwan, Mylet and Nicolson.

6 members having voted for the amendment and 8 members having voted for the motion, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED:

(a) That the projected Revenue outturn position as detailed in table 1 of the report, acknowledging that the forecast position was based on best estimates at this point in time, 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 5 of the report, be noted.

3 Operational Performance Report

There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Environment & Infrastructure and Communities & Housing relative to operational performance.

The Convener indicated that there was a typographical error in the report and recommendation 2.2 required to be amended to read "Approves the suspension of car parking charges in the Council owned car parks of Paisley Town Centre until the end of August 2021 as set out in paragraph 4.16 of the report."

The report provided updates since the previous Board meeting in respect of key areas delivered by services within Environment & Infrastructure, which were within the remit of this Policy Board. It also outlined the areas of priority through to summer 2021, highlighting key areas of focus and plans for next steps to support the Council's recovery plans. Whilst developing these plans, the local and national position remained fluid and services would remain flexible and able to respond quickly in relation to changes in restrictions and local outbreaks as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The report stated that operational services had continued within Covid-19 restrictions and that services were being delivered in most instances to levels similar to those experienced by services in a pre-covid environment. It was noted that all required safety measures were in place and well established.

Reference was also made within the report to the decision taken in March 2020 when

the initial national lockdown had commenced that charges in Council-owned car parks be suspended to support key workers to undertake their duties and to the decision taken at the meeting of this Policy Board held on 24 March 2021 to continue the suspension of charges in view of the lockdown restrictions imposed. The report proposed that due to the continuation of restrictions the suspension of charges in Council-owned car parks be extended to the end of August 2021.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4(a) **Environment & Infrastructure Services: Service Improvement Plan 2020/21: Outturn Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to an overview of performance to deliver the Environment & Infrastructure Service Improvement Plan during the 12-month period to 31 March 2021.

The report provided a summary of the performance of Environment & Infrastructure Services during 2020/21, with a detailed explanation on all relevant actions, performance indicators and targets which had been impacted as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. The Service Improvement Plan Action Plan and Performance Scorecard, a copy of which was appended to the report, detailed progress against the agreed priorities for the service, which were aligned against the strategic outcomes of the Council Plan 2017/22. The report also detailed the key achievements of the service, how the work of the service contributed to the priorities set out within the Council Plan, progress in relation to implementation of the action plan and an assessment of performance in terms of service scorecard of core performance indicators.

During March 2020, the service had identified key actions it aimed to achieve over the next three-year period, in order to deliver improved outcomes for local people and communities and contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan. Given the unprecedented nature of events in 2020/21, these three-year plans had been replaced by Service Delivery Plans which focused on a single year, 2021/22, and outlined what each service planned to do to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and associated restrictions, as well as actions to support recovery and renewal.

The Environment & Infrastructure Service Delivery Plan had previously been considered at the meetings of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board and this Policy Board held on 16 and 24 March 2021 respectively. The report highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on the operation of the Council and on how services were delivered. Whilst there had been periods where national policy required some services be paused, most service areas delivered by Environment & Infrastructure had continued throughout the year and adapted to new ways of working.

DECIDED:

(i) That the progress made by Environment & Infrastructure on actions and performance indicators, as detailed in Appendix 1 and as specific to the areas of activity within the remit of this Policy Board be noted; and

(ii) That it be noted that the Environment & Infrastructure Service Improvement Plan outturn report would also be submitted to the Finance, Resources & Customer

Services Policy Board in respect of areas of activity that were within the remit of that Board.

4(b) Communities & Housing Services: Service Improvement Plan 2021/22: Outturn Report

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to an overview of performance to deliver the Communities & Housing Service Improvement Plan during the 12-month period to 31 March 2021.

The report provided a summary of the performance of Communities & Housing Services during 2020/21, with a detailed explanation on all relevant actions, performance indicators and targets which had been impacted as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. The Service Improvement Plan Action Plan and Performance Scorecard, a copy of which was appended to the report, detailed progress against the agreed priorities for the service, which were aligned against the strategic outcomes of the Council Plan 2017/22. The report also detailed the key achievements of the service, how the work of the service contributed to the priorities set out within the Council Plan, progress in relation to implementation of the action plan and an assessment of performance in terms of service scorecard of core performance indicators.

During March 2020, the service had identified key actions it aimed to achieve over the next three-year period, in order to deliver improved outcomes for local people and communities and contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan. Given the unprecedented nature of events in 2020/21, these three-year plans had been replaced by Service Delivery Plans which focused on a single year, 2021/22, and outlined what each service planned to do to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and associated restrictions, as well as actions to support recovery and renewal.

The Communities & Housing Services Service Delivery Plan had been considered at the meetings of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board and this Policy Board held on 16 and 24 March 2021 respectively. The report highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on the operation of the Council and on how services were delivered. Whilst there had been periods where national policy required some services be paused, most service areas delivered by Environment & Infrastructure had continued throughout the year and adapted to new ways of working.

The report highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on the operation of the Council and on how services were delivered. Whilst there had been periods where national policy required some services be paused, most service areas delivered by Communities & Housing had continued throughout the year and adapted to new ways of working. At the same time, the Council has taken on additional tasks directly related to supporting residents through the pandemic, whether as a single agency or in partnership with other public and third sector organisations.

In addition it was noted that as part of the Placeshaping service redesign within the Council's change and transformation programme, "Right for Renfrewshire", (i) the work of Future Paisley, across the Council and its key partners, had been broadened

to focus on a wider set of strategic objectives both for Paisley and the wider geography of Renfrewshire and now sat within the Chief Executive's Service; and (ii) Building Standards, Planning and employees involved in the preparation of the Local Housing Strategy had also transferred to the Chief Executive's Service.

The Service Improvement Plans had been approved by relevant policy boards during March 2020 and contained actions and Performance indicators for these areas which, until January, sat within Communities, Housing & Planning Services. In order to keep the governance line correct with the approved Plan, updates for 2020/21 for these service areas had been included within the report, however moving forward, these service areas would be reported within the Chief Executive's Service Delivery Plan.

DECIDED:

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That it be noted that the Communities & Housing Services Service Improvement Plan outturn report had also been submitted to the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board in respect of areas of activity that were within the remit of that Board;
- (iii) That progress relative to areas of service performance within the remit of this Board be noted; and
- (iv) That progress made relative to actions and performance in the action plan be noted.

5 **Outdoor Access and Play Parks Improvements**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to the outdoor access and play area improvements.

The report made reference to the decision taken at the meeting of the Council held on 4 March 2021 to invest £2.284 million to support improvements in outdoor access and play areas, the increased demand during the pandemic from residents for parks and outdoor green spaces and recent previous investment in play areas, parks and open spaces. The report highlighted that the Council owned and maintained 97 play areas and outlined recent investment. The Council currently possessed a detailed asset condition assessment for each of these play areas and the play equipment located therein. This information, together with an overview of previous investment and the identification of areas where there had not been investment would be used in determining future proposed investment needs to ensure there was balanced provision across Renfrewshire. The funding allocated would also be used to enhance access and infrastructure improvements to support increased recreational walking activity and general enjoyment of greenspace. It was proposed that a community engagement exercise would be undertaken to obtain the views of the community on the content of the outdoor access and playpark investment programme, with the planned programme of investment for 2021/22, across every ward, submitted to the next meeting of this Policy Board for consideration.

DECIDED: That the capital investment to improve outdoor access and enhance play parks across Renfrewshire over the next two financial years be noted and that arrangements be made to submit to the meeting of this Policy Board to be held on 25

August 2021 a detailed report setting out the 2021/22 investment.

6 Paisley Golf Club – Extension to leased area

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the proposed amendment of the lease of ground at Paisley Golf Club to include an additional 0.25 hectares (0.6 acres) or thereby.

The report advised that the Council currently leased, on a 99-year lease, 156.66 acres or thereby at Gleniffer Braes, Paisley to Paisley Golf Club. The lease had commenced on May 1951 at an annual rent of £0.01. The Club had approached the Council with a request to lease an additional area of land, identified on a plan appended to the report, to improve car parking for both members of the club and also members of the public who parked in this area to access Gleniffer Braes Country Park. The report detailed the proposed main terms and conditions of the lease amendment which had provisionally been agreed.

During discussion, it was proposed that should the proposed lease be approved it be subject to the receipt of all necessary Planning Consent. This was agreed.

DECIDED: That the amendment to the existing lease between Renfrewshire Council and Paisley Golf Club to include an additional area of 0.25 Hectares (0.62 acres) or thereby be approved, subject to the receipt of all necessary Planning Consent and that the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to conclude the lease amendment as per the terms of the report.

Minute of Meeting

Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board

| Date | Time | Venue |
|-------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| Wednesday, 02 June 2021 | 14:00 | Teams - virtual meeting, |

Present: Councillor Tom Begg, Provost Lorraine Cameron, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Kenny MacLaren, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor Jim Sharkey, Councillor John Shaw, Councillor James Sheridan, Councillor Andy Steel

Chair

Councillor J Shaw, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

G McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure and D Gillies, Head of Facilities Management (Environment & Infrastructure); L McIntyre, Policy & Commissioning Manager, B Lambert, Corporate Procurement Manager and D Christie, Senior Communications Officer (all Chief Executive's Service); and K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, A MacArthur, Head of Finance, R Cree, Organisational Development & Workforce Planning Manager, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, D Pole, End User Technician, J Barron, Assistant Committee Services Officer, A McNaughton, C MacDonald, P Shiach and E Gray, Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources).

Recording of Meeting

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

Declarations of Interest

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

1 **Joint Consultative Board (Non-teaching)**

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Joint Consultative Board (Non-teaching) held on 31 March 2021, as attached hereto.

DECIDED: That the Minute be noted.

2 **Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring**

There was submitted a revenue and capital budget monitoring report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to revenue and capital budget expenditure and adjustments for the period to 5 March 2021.

DECIDED:

(a) That the projected revenue outturn position as 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 at sections 4 and 6 of the report be noted.

3 **Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring – Council Overview**

There was submitted a revenue and capital budget monitoring report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to an overview of revenue and capital expenditure for the period to 5 March 2021.

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 and confirmed government support to date; and

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

4 **COSLA Annual Levy**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to annual levy applied by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

As in previous years, COSLA had applied a standard fixed sum of £10,000 per council with the balance of the subscription being determined by the number of people living in the local authority area. The Council's contribution for 2021/22 was set at £108,294 (exclusive of VAT) with a 0.55% annual increase each year to 2024/25 as agreed by

COSLA Leaders in March 2021. The 2021/22 levy was payable in June 2021.

DECIDED:

- (a) That payment of the COSLA levy of £108,294 for 2020/21 be approved; and
- (b) That payment of the COSLA levy as outlined in the report for the subsequent financial years up to and including 2024/25 be approved.

5 **Customer and Business Services Performance Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the performance of Customer & Business Services including revenue collection and benefit administration for the period to 31 March 2021.

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

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

6 **Facilities Management Operational Performance Report**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to an operational performance update on Facilities Management (Hard and Soft Services) delivered by Environment & Infrastructure since the meeting of this Policy Board in March 2021.

DECIDED: That the operational performance update be noted.

7 **Chief Executive's Service - Service Improvement Plan 2020/21 Outturn Report**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the performance of the Chief Executive's Service Improvement Plan (the Plan) from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The report explained that whilst the Plan had not been formally approved by the Board due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the cancellation of scheduled policy board meetings, it had been utilised during 2020/21 and this report provided information on all actions and indicators, including details of any actions delayed or cancelled as a result of Covid-19 restrictions and/or the need to refocus service priorities in order to manage the pandemic response.

The report highlighted key achievements in 2020/21 and appendices to the report set out the Action Plan for 2020/23 and Outturn Performance Indicators for 2020/23.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the report be noted; and

(b) That it be noted that a mid-term report on the Service Delivery Plan would be submitted to the relevant Boards in Autumn 2021.

8 **Finance & Resources - Service Improvement Plan 2020/21**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the performance of Finance & Resources Service Improvement Plan (the Plan) from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The report explained that whilst the Plan had not been formally approved by the Board due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the cancellation of scheduled policy board meetings, it had been utilised during 2020/21 and this report provided information on all actions and indicators, including details of any actions delayed or cancelled as a result of Covid-19 restrictions and/or the need to refocus service priorities in order to manage the pandemic response.

The report highlighted key achievements in 2020/21, Appendix 1 to the report set out the Action Plan 2020/23 and the Service Improvement Plan 2020/23 formed Appendix 2 to the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the report be noted; and

(b) That progress made on actions and performance as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

9 **Environment & Infrastructure Service Improvement Plan: Overview of Performance 2020/21**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to the performance of the Environment & Infrastructure Service Improvement Plan (the Plan) from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 in respect of activity falling within this Board's remit.

The report provided a summary of performance for 2020/21 with detailed explanation of all relevant actions and performance indicators, including details of those actions, performance indicators and targets across some areas that were heavily disrupted by Covid-19 restrictions.

The Service Improvement Action Plan 2020/23 and Performance Scorecard were appended to the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That progress made by Environment & Infrastructure on actions and performance indicators as detailed in the Appendix and as specific to the areas of activity delegated to this Policy Board, be noted; and

(b) That it be noted that an outturn report had also been provided to the

Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board in respect of activity falling within its remit.

10 **Report on the Voluntary Redundancy/Early Retirement Schemes**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the number of employees leaving the service through the voluntary redundancy or voluntary early retirement schemes and associated financial implications for the Council as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

The report provided details of the workforce planning arrangements to support the delivery of service changes, predominantly linked to the Right for Renfrewshire programme over 2020/21.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

11 **Chief Executive's Service – Annual Health and Safety Report 2020/21 and Action Plan 2021/22**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Chief Executive's Service Annual Health & Safety Report 2020/21 and Action Plan 2021/22.

The annual Health & Safety Report 2020/21 formed Appendix 1 to the report and set out the arrangements for management of health and safety with the service, demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement and summarised the achievements from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The report also provided information on the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic had had on health and safety arrangements for the service.

The Action Plan 2021/22 formed Appendix 2 to the report and set out the planned actions the service would undertake during 2021/22. This also included specific actions to be prioritised in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff.

DECIDED:

(a) That the annual report be noted; and

(b) That the Chief Executive's Service Health & Safety Action Plan 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

12 **Conference Request**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to attendance at an online Working effectively with Officers workshop, hosted by the Local Government Information Unit at a cost of £75 per person.

DECIDED: That attendance by Councillor James MacLaren be approved.

13 Contract Authorisation Report for Festive Lighting 2021 up to 2025 (RC-CPU-20-022)

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to the award of a contract for festive lighting 2021 up to 2025 to Field and Lawn Limited.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a contract for festive lighting 2021 up to 2025 to Field and Lawn Limited;
- (b) That it be noted that the initial service term was three years and the Council had an option to extend the service term for up to 12 months, subject to contract performance;
- (c) That the anticipated start date was 28 September 2021 and that the actual start date would be confirmed in the Council's letter of acceptance; and
- (d) That a total contract value of up to £633,011.60 excluding VAT be approved, being £478,696.20 excluding VAT for the initial three years' service term and an additional £154,315.40 excluding VAT should the option to extend for up to 12 months be utilised.

14 Contract No. 1 – Surface Treatment 2021/2022 (RC-CPU-20-431)

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to the award of Contract No. 1 Surface Treatment 2021/22 to Kiely Bros. Limited.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award Contract No. 1 Surface Treatment 2021/22 to Kiely Bros. Limited;
- (b) That it be noted that the intended start date was 1 July 2021 with completion by 31 August 2021 and the actual start and completion dates would be confirmed in the Council's letter of acceptance; and
- (c) That a contact sum of £565,225.50 excluding VAT be approved.

15 Contract No. 2 – Pre-Patching in Advance of Surface Dressing 2021/2022 (RC-CPU-20-431)

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to the award of Contract No. 2 for Pre-patching in Advance of Surface Dressing to Mac Asphalt Limited.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award Contract No. 2 for Pre-patching in Advance of Surface Dressing as a Package Order under the Framework Contract for the Maintenance and Improvement of Carriageways and Footways, Lot 4 – Carriageway Defect Patching to Mac Asphalt Limited;

(b) That it be noted that the contract was for a period of three months, with the intended start date of 2 August 2021 and that the actual start date would be confirmed in the Council's letter of acceptance; and

(c) That a contract sum of £344,912.50 excluding VAT be approved.

16 Contract Award: New Street Lighting Installation at St Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir (RC-CPU-20-388)

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to the award of a works contract for New Street Lighting Installation at St Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, to Lightways (Contractors) Limited.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a works contract for New Street Lighting Installation at St Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, to Lightways (Contractors) Limited;

(b) That a contract sum of £200,124.25 excluding VAT be approved: and

(c) That it be noted that the starting date was 28 June 2021 and the anticipated completion date was 12 weeks from the start date and that the actual start and completion dates would be confirmed in the Council's letter of acceptance.

17 Contract Authorisation Report for a Term Contract for the Statutory Compliance and Reactive Repairs of Powered Pedestrian Access Doors (including Reactive Repairs to Door Entry and Access Control Systems)

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to the award of a contract for Statutory Maintenance and Reactive Repairs of Powered Pedestrian Access Doors (including Reactive Repairs to Door Entry and Access Control Systems) to Robertson-Acom Limited.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a contract for Statutory Maintenance and Reactive Repairs of Powered Pedestrian Access Doors (including Reactive Repairs to Door Entry and Access Control Systems) to Robertson-Acom Limited.

(b) That a contract sum of up to £700,000.00 excluding VAT be approved;

(c) That a contract period of three years commencing on or around 26 July 2021,

with the Council having at its sole discretion the option to extend the contract for further periods, the length of any extension to be determined by the Council with the total of any extension periods not exceeding 24 months, be approved.

18 Contract Award: The Purchase of two (2) 18 Tonne Multi-use Unibody Gritter Vehicles (RC-CPU-20-416)

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to the award of a contract for the purchase of two 18 tonne multi-use unibody gritter vehicles as part of the Council's Vehicle Replacement Programme 2020/21 to Econ Engineering Limited.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a contract for the purchase of two 18 tonne multi-use unibody gritter vehicles to Econ Engineering Limited;
- (b) That a contract value of £234,088.64 excluding VAT be approved; and
- (c) That it be noted that if an order was placed with Econ Engineering Limited before 18 June 2021, Econ Engineering Limited had agreed to deliver before the end of June 2022 to the Council's Fleet Services, Underwood Road, Paisley.

19 Provision of Independent Advocacy Services – Adult Services (RC-CPU-20-268)

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Interim Chief Officer, Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership relative to the award of a contract for the provision of Independent Advocacy Services – Adult Services to You First Advocacy.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a contract for the provision of Independent Advocacy Services – Adult Services to You First Advocacy for an initial period of three years with the option to extend at the discretion of the Council for a further period of 12 months;
- (b) That it be noted that the start date was anticipated to be 1 September 2021 and that the actual start date would be confirmed in the Council's letter of acceptance; and
- (c) That a contract sum of up to £515,260.16 excluding VAT for the initial period and up to £687,858.12 excluding VAT should the 12 month extension period be exercised, be approved.

20 Provision of a School-Based Counselling Service (RC-CPU-20-364)

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of

Children's Services relative to the award of a contract for the provision of a School-based Counselling Service to Place2Be.

Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved:

That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a contract for the provision of a School-based Counselling Service to Place2Be, subject to Place2Be entering into a Data Processor Agreement with the Council;

That the contract be awarded for an initial period of 12 months with the option by the Council to extend for a further period of 12 months subject to funding;

That it be noted that the start date was anticipated to be 13 August 2021 and the actual start date would be confirmed in the Council's letter of acceptance; and

That a contract sum of up to a maximum of £175,000.00 excluding VAT for the initial contract period, rising to a maximum of £350,000.00 excluding VAT should a 12 month extension period be exercised be approved.

As an amendment, Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor Harte, moved that the report be not approved.

On the roll being called the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors: Harte, Hood, Sharkey and Sheridan.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillor: Begg, Provost L Cameron, Councillors Audrey Doig, K MacLaren, McNaughtan, Nicolson, Paterson, Shaw, Steel and Graham.

4 members having voted for the amendment and 10 members having voted for the motion; the motion was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to award a contract for the provision of a School-based Counselling Service to Place2Be, subject to Place2Be entering into a Data Processor Agreement with the Council;

(b) That the contract be awarded for an initial period of 12 months with the option by the Council to extend for a further period of 12 months subject to funding;

(c) That it be noted that the start date was anticipated to be 13 August 2021 and the actual start date would be confirmed in the Council's letter of acceptance; and

(d) That a contract sum of up to a maximum of £175,000.00 excluding VAT for the initial contract period, rising to a maximum of £350,000.00 excluding VAT should a 12 month extension period be exercised be approved.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Board 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 paragraphs 6 and 9 of part I of schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

21 **PPP Contract Negotiations and Mediation**

Under reference to paragraph 26 of the Minute of the Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board meeting held on 11 November 2020, there was submitted a report by the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to settlement of PPP contract negotiations and mediation and approval of attached agreements.

DECIDED: That the recommendations detailed in the report be approved.

Minute of Meeting

Joint Consultative Board (Non-Teaching)

| Date | Time | Venue |
|--------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| Wednesday, 31 March 2021 | 15:00 | Microsoft TEAMS Platform, |

Present: Councillor Tom Begg, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor Andy Steel

Present

Representing Trade Unions – J Boylan, S Hicks, K Kernachan and M McIntyre (UNISON); and J O'Connell and G Cochrane (Unite).

In Attendance

G McKinlay, Head of Schools (Children's Services); A Bennett, Housing Services Manager (Communities, Housing & Planning Services); D Kerr, Service Co-ordination Manager (Environment & Infrastructure); L Neary, Head of Transformation HR & OD, R Laouadi, HR Manager, R Cree, OD & Workforce Planning Manager, S Fanning, Principal HR & OD Adviser, D Blair, Senior Health & Safety Officer, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, D Pole, End User Technician and R Devine and C MacDonald, both Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources); and N Harner, L Cameron and C O'Byrne (all Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership).

Appointment of Chairperson

It was proposed and agreed that Councillor J McNaughtan chair the meeting.

DECIDED: That Councillor J McNaughtan chair the meeting.

Recording of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting members were reminded that this meeting would be recorded and that the recording would be available to watch on the Council's website.

1 **Apologies**

D Gillies, Head of Facilities Management and L Rennie, Operations Manager (both Environment & Infrastructure).

2 **Declarations of Interest**

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

3 **Developments in Health, Safety and Wellbeing**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to activity undertaken in relation to health, safety and wellbeing issues since the previous meeting of the JCB Non-Teaching.

The report focussed on actions and activities undertaken to support the Council's response and recovery plans. It was highlighted that the Health & Safety team had been an integral part of the Council's emergency management team providing guidance as documents had been released by the UK and Scottish Governments, the NHS and Health Protection Scotland.

The report also detailed guidance and policies that had been reviewed and/or issued, and outlined the support provided to front-line Services in the delivery of emergency and prioritised work and to other businesses. Updates were provided in respect of activities undertaken relative to Freedom of Information enquiries, the development of new guidance and supplemented by risk assessments and standing operating procedures relating to specific Service activities. It was highlighted that an essential element of the workload for the Health & Safety team had been liaison with relevant Services in relation to the safe working operation of the Covid-19 Vaccination Centres, and site visits and Covid-19 compliance checks of polling places. It was noted that consultation and collaboration had been undertaken with the trade unions to ensure the health and wellbeing of those involved in these activities.

It was highlighted that meetings of the Corporate Health and Safety Committee had been reinstated.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4 **Absence Statistics**

There were submitted reports by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the Council's absence statistics for the period 1 April to 31 December 2020.

The reports provided information in relation to absence targets and how Services and categories of staff had performed against them. An analysis of the reasons for absence for the period was included within the reports. Information was also provided on supporting attendance activity levels by Service and the overall number of days

lost.

DECIDED: That the reports on absence statistics for the period 1 April to 31 December 2020 be noted.

5 **Details of Grievances**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the number of grievances received.

The report provided information on grievances at both the informal and formal stages. The report indicated that there was a total of 15 grievances as at March 2021. Members noted that the number of overall grievances had increased by 4 from the previous report in November 2020. In addition, it was noted that relationship issues between employees had been identified as a trend when analysing reasons for grievances, that early intervention was used to resolve grievances where possible and trained mediators were available to help resolve matters if required.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

6 **Agency Workers**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the number of agency staff employed within the Council as at March 2021 and detailing the capacity and Services in which they were engaged. The report advised that as at March 2021, 122 agency workers were employed across all Services. It was noted that the number of agency workers had increased during the pandemic but that there had been a reduction in numbers since December 2020 and that trend was continuing. Clarification was provided, in response to an enquiry, in relation to payment arrangements for agency workers.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

7 **Date of Next Meeting**

DECIDED: That it be noted that the next meeting of the JCB Non-Teaching was scheduled to be held at 3pm on 2 June 2021.

Minute of Meeting

Regulatory Functions Board

| Date | Time | Venue |
|------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Thursday, 03 June 2021 | 10:00 | Remotely by MS Teams , |

Present: Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Alistair Mackay, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Kevin Montgomery, Councillor Emma Rodden, Councillor Andy Steel, Councillor Jane Strang

Chair

Councillor McNaughtan, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

D Campbell, Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing), R Graham, Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Regulatory Services), E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer, P Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer, A Easdon, Team Leader (Licensing), G McIntosh, Civic Government Enforcement Officer (for items 1 to 6 only), and R McCallum, Administrative Assistant (all Finance & Resources).

Recording of Meeting

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

Apology

Councillor Cathy McEwan.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest 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 11 of the agenda before item 7 of the agenda.

1 Public Entertainment Licensing: Proposed Changes to Standard Licence Conditions

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources seeking agreement to amend the standard conditions of licence relating to certain public entertainment licences.

The report intimated that it was the view of officers that these conditions required to be updated to reflect the terms of the Council's policy banning the release of balloons or lanterns at Council licensed events.

The report advised that at a meeting of the Council held on 27 February 2020, Council considered a notice of motion relating to the release of balloons and lanterns and agreed that the release of these items posed a risk to wildlife, livestock, humans and property and also agreed a policy banning their release on Council property, Council owned land, and at Council licensed, endorsed or supported events, including those not on Council land. Officers had reviewed the Council's existing public entertainment licence conditions and proposed that an additional standard condition be attached to these licences when they related to an event, as detailed in paragraph 2.1.1 of the report. If agreed, the additional condition would be included in public entertainment licences granted for the first time following the Board's decision.

DECIDED:

(a) That the following condition be agreed for public entertainment licences which related to events: "The licence holder shall not release, or allow the release of, balloons or lanterns during any licensed event.";

(b) That the above condition be attached to new public entertainment licences relating to events and to existing licences when they next fell to be renewed; and

(c) That otherwise the terms of the report be noted.

2 Public Procession Conditions: Proposals for Consultation

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources seeking approval to consult on a proposal to change the standard conditions imposed on public processions which related to music being played outside places of worship.

The report intimated that the Council imposed a number of standard conditions in relation to public processions and these were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. Standard condition 7 was intended to prevent music being played outside places of worship while a service was in progress. However, questions had arisen in relation to

the interpretation and application of this condition and officers were of the view that it would be desirable to replace it with a condition which made the requirements of the Council clearer.

The report provided information relating to reports published in this regard and the conditions and codes of conduct put in place in neighbouring authorities.

It was noted that should the Board agree that the proposed condition be put to consultation, officers would commence a consultation exercise for a period of four-weeks and Appendix 2 to the report detailed the consultation questions. A report would be submitted to a future meeting of this Board following the consultation exercise.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be agreed that the terms of the proposed condition, as detailed in paragraph 4.8 of the report, in relation to prohibiting music being played outside a place of worship, was suitable for the purposes of consultation;

(b) That the consultation questions, which formed Appendix 2 to the report, be approved; and

(c) That officers be instructed to undertake a public consultation on the proposed condition, to include all persons who had, in the past two years, notified the Council of their intention to hold a public procession, all statutory and non-statutory consultees who were notified of public processions within Renfrewshire and such other persons or groups as officers considered appropriate and to report the responses to the consultation to the Board thereafter.

3 **Variation of Private Hire Car Operator's Licence - Personal Appearance**

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

Applicant: Iain Waddell

Variation: exception to policy and standard condition 1

Licence No.: PH0943

Mr Waddell, the applicant, joined the meeting by video call. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that Mr Waddell's application for variation be granted and that standard condition 1 of his licence be amended to enable Mr Waddell to operate his present vehicle, registration number SB14 NYZ, until 6 June 2022, subject to the vehicle being tested at three-monthly intervals with the first inspection being carried out within 28 days from 3 June 2021. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That Mr Waddell's application for variation be granted and that standard condition 1 of his licence be amended to enable Mr Waddell to operate his present vehicle, registration number SB14 NYZ, until 6 June 2021, subject to the vehicle being tested at three-monthly intervals with the first inspection being carried out within 28 days from 3 June 2021.

4 **Variation of Taxi Operators' Licences - Personal Appearances**

There were submitted the undernoted applications for variation of Taxi Operators' Licences. The applicants had been asked to appear personally for the first time:-

(a) Applicant: David Robertson

Variation: exception to policy and standard condition 22

Licence No.: TX002

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Robertson, the applicant, who had previously indicated that he wished his application to be determined by way of written submissions. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that Mr Robertson's application for variation be granted and that standard condition 1 of his licence be amended to enable Mr Robertson to operate his present vehicle, registration number DV13 RRZ, for a period of one year from 3 June 2021, subject to the vehicle being tested at three-monthly intervals with the first inspection being carried out within 28 days from 3 June 2021. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That Mr Robertson's application for variation be granted and that standard condition 1 of his licence be amended to enable Mr Robertson to operate his present vehicle, registration number DV13 RRZ, for a period of one year from 3 June 2021, subject to the vehicle being tested at three-monthly intervals with the first inspection being carried out within 28 days from 3 June 2021.

(b) Applicant: William Mottram

Variation: exception to policy and standard condition 22

Licence No.: TX176

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Mottram, the applicant, who had previously indicated that he wished his application to be determined by way of written submissions. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that Mr Mottram's application for variation be granted and that standard condition 1 of his licence be amended to enable Mr Mottram to operate his present vehicle, registration number SH13 GXB, for a period of one year from 3 June 2021, subject to the vehicle being tested at three-monthly intervals with the first inspection being carried out within 28 days from 3 June 2021. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That Mr Mottram's application for variation be granted and that standard condition 1 of his licence be amended to enable Mr Mottram to operate his present vehicle, registration number SH13 GXB, for a period of one year from 3 June 2021, subject to the vehicle being tested at three-monthly intervals with the first inspection being carried out within 28 days from 3 June 2021.

5 **Grant of Taxi Driver's Licence - Personal Appearance**

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

John Allan

Mr Allan, the applicant, joined the meeting by video call. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that consideration of the application be continued to allow Mr Allan to complete the taxi knowledge test and that, if required, Mr Allan be invited to appear personally at a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued to allow Mr Allan to complete the taxi knowledge test and that, if required, Mr Allan be invited to appear personally at a future meeting of the Board.

6 **Grant of Private Hire Car Driver's Licence - Personal Appearance**

There was submitted the undernoted application for grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence. The applicant had been asked to appear personally for the first time:-

Annalie Bellshaw

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Ms Bellshaw. The Convener proposed that consideration of the application be continued and that the applicant be invited to appear personally at the next meeting of this Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued and that the applicant be invited to appear personally at the next meeting of this Board.

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.

Sederunt

Councillor Steel joined the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

7 **Grant of Street Trader's Licence - Personal Appearance**

There was submitted the undernoted application for grant of a Street Trader's Licence. The applicant had been asked to appear personally for the first time together with Police Scotland who had submitted a representation to the application received outwith the statutory timescale to the application:-

Applicant: Dorjan Rabija

Authorised goods: fish and chips

Trading from: Mobile unit, Reg. No. SH62 AWY - Ferguslie, Hunterhill, Gallowhill, Foxbar areas of Paisley and Renfrew

Operating hours: Monday to Sunday - 3.00 pm to 11.00 pm – Monday and Friday in Ferguslie; Tuesday in Hunterhill; Wednesday and Saturday in Gallowhill; Thursday in

Renfrew; and Sunday in Foxbar

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Rabija, the applicant. Mr Kinloch, Solicitor, joined the meeting by video call and advised that he would be representing Mr Rabija at the meeting. Sergeant Robertson, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted a representation to the application received outwith the statutory timescale also joined the meeting by video call.

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 meeting adjourned to allow members to consider the application. The meeting was reconvened and 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.

8 **Grant of Private Hire Car Drivers' Licences - Personal Appearances**

There were submitted the undernoted applications for grant 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 an objection to application (c) received outwith the statutory timescale to the application:-

(a) Hussain Safdar

Mr Safdar, 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.

(b) Mohammad Mangal

Mr Mangal, 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) Thomas McDonald

Mr McDonald, the applicant, joined the meeting by video call together with Sergeant Robertson, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted an objection to the application received outwith the statutory timescale to the application, who also joined by video call.

On hearing the reason 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.

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

DECIDED: That the application be refused.

Sederunt

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

9 Renewal of Private Hire Car Driver's Licence - Personal Appearance

There was submitted the undernoted application for renewal of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence. The applicant had been asked to appear personally for the first time together with Police Scotland who has submitted a representation to the application:-

Applicant: Aminul Islam
Licence No.: P0234

Mr Islam, the applicant, joined the meeting by video call together with Sergeant Robertson, on behalf of the Chief Constable who had submitted a representation to the application, who also 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 two years. This was agreed unanimously.

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

10 Grant of Taxi Driver's Licence - Personal Appearance

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

Christopher Ritchie

Mr Ritchie, 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.

11 Application for Exemption from Driver's Duties under Section 165 of the Equality Act 2010 - Personal Appearance

There was submitted the undernoted application for exemption from driver's duties under Section 165 of the Equality Act 2010. The applicant had been asked to appear personally for the first time:-

Applicant: David McDonald
Licence No.: T0454

Mr McDonald, 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 the duration of Mr McDonald's current Taxi Driver's Licence. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for the duration of Mr McDonald's current Taxi Driver's Licence.

Minute of Meeting

Petitions Board

| Date | Time | Venue |
|----------------------|-------|----------------|
| Monday, 07 June 2021 | 14:00 | Teams Meeting, |

Present: Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Scott Kerr, Councillor Andy Steel

Chair

Councillor Adam-McGregor, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance; M Higginbotham, Transportation & Development Manager (Environment & Infrastructure); and E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer and P Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer (both Finance & Resources).

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Campbell declared a non-financial interest in item 1 of the agenda in that she was employed by the local MP Gavin Newlands, who had been involved in the Petition. Councillor Campbell indicated that as she had not been directly involved in the case she would remain in the meeting and take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Recording of Meeting

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

1 **Petition: Traffic Calming Measures - Oxford Road, Renfrew**

There was submitted a petition from Mr Alastair MacLennan in the following terms: -

“Petition Statement

The purpose of this statement is to bring to your attention the speeding traffic in Oxford Road. There are now young children living in Oxford Road, as well as visiting grandchildren, and our concern is that one day there will be an accident in the road that will result in a fatality or at the very least a severe injury to one of the Oxford Road residents. There is a sign at one end of Oxford Road as well as the other end, suggesting that twenty is plenty, to which no one pays the slightest heed. I have no means of measuring the speed of some of the cars and vans, however I would suggest that they are travelling at more than the speed limit of 30mph, let alone the suggested speed of 20mph. There has been in the past, two accidents at the junction of Oxford Road and Cambridge Road that I’m aware of, when thankfully it was only cars that were involved, as well as cars coming off Paisley Road into Oxford Road.

Ever since the introduction of traffic lights at the junction of Oxford Road and Paisley Road, we regularly observe cars and vans increase their speed, in order to make sure they catch the lights, and in quite a few cases, pay no attention to the red light, as there are no traffic officers available to police the junction. Also recently, we now observe school buses using the road as a shortcut, and along with the use of the road by HGV trucks, we feel some of the houses vibrating, make us ask the question, is the road sufficiently strong to accept the weight of those vehicles. We fully understand that refuse vehicles and the like, require to use the road in the nature of their business, but not as a shortcut. That coupled with cars parked on both sides of the road, it doesn’t leave a lot of space in the middle of the road for the larger vehicles passing each other, as well as the cars.

Action taken prior to resolve the issues.

The action taken prior to the submission of this petition has been, to engage with our local councillors in the past, the Police, our MSP and the Local MP, and it’s as a result of the last contact with our MP, Mr Gavin Newlands , that we are taking this action. On one occasion, when we had the police at the door discussing the problem, a car went by, well over the speed limit, and it was noted by the Police officers.

What we are suggesting.

Is that traffic calming be installed to reduce the excessive speeding, and hopefully deter the road being used as a shortcut by larger vehicles and HGV vehicles”.

The report intimated that the Transportation & Development Manager advised that the Council was working on a policy that would outline the criteria for all Traffic Calming requests. The criteria first examined current speeds, accident rates and the traffic volume, from the information gathered would determine if the location justified a more detailed assessment. If a further assessment was required and carried out, this would allow officers to prioritise areas most in need and rank in order of priority.

If funding became available, work would begin on a prioritised list.

The report also advised that for this reason, it would assist to have a speed survey, traffic volumes recorded and look at the accident statistics on Oxford Road. The results of these surveys would identify if further action was required.

The report indicated that currently the 20mph twenty's plenty signs at either end of Oxford Road were advisory only and therefore could not be enforced. It was intended to begin a rolling programme to change these signs throughout Renfrewshire to mandatory 20mph

The Board heard from the Petitioner and his supporter Mr Malcolm Robbie in support of the Petition.

Councillor Adam-McGregor, seconded by Councillor Hughes, moved that following the undertaking of a sample speed survey a report would be brought to a future meeting of the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board for consideration. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That following the undertaking of a sample speed survey a report be brought to a future meeting of the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board for consideration.

Minute of Meeting Leadership Board

| Date | Time | Venue |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Wednesday, 16 June 2021 | 13:00 | Teams Meeting, |

Present: Councillor Jacqueline Cameron, Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Eileen McCartin, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor John McIntyre, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor John Shaw, Councillor James Sheridan

Chair

Councillor Nicolson, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

S Black, Chief Executive; M Crearie, Director of Communities & Housing; G McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure; S Quinn, Director of Children's Services; A Russell, Director of Finance & Resources; B Walker, Programme Director – City Deal and Infrastructure; L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning, L Mahon, Head of Marketing & Communications, A Morrison, Head of Economy & Development Services, L Adamson, Communications & Public Affairs Manager, A Armstrong-Walter, Strategic Partnerships & Inequalities Manager, R Cooper, Economic Development Manager, N Yardley, Project Manager (Clyde/Renfrew Waterfront) and G Hunter, Chief Economic & Regeneration Officer (all Chief Executive's); K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, A MacArthur, Head of Finance, L Belshaw and D Low, Democratic Services Managers, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, E Grey, Senior Committee Services Officer and D Pole, End User Technician (all Finance & Resources); V Hollows, Chief Executive (Renfrewshire Leisure); and F Burns, Head of Strategic Planning & Health Improvement (Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership).

Recording of Meeting

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

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hughes declared an interest in items 1, 4 and 9(b) of the agenda as she was the Chair of the Board of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited and indicated that she would remain in the meeting during consideration of these items.

Councillor McCartin declared an interest in items 1, 4 and 9(b) of the agenda as she was a member of the Board of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited and indicated that she would remain the meeting during consideration of these items.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Hughes and McCartin having previously declared an interest in the following item remained in the meeting.

1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive, Director of Finance & Resources and the Chief Finance Officer, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership relative to the projected revenue and capital outturn position as at 31 March 2021 across all services reporting to this Board. For financial year 2020/21 the projected outturn position was split into core (business as usual) and Covid-19 related variances to outline the impact of the pandemic on service finances.

The report intimated that there was a projected annual underspend of £1.694 million in revenue expenditure and that since the last report to the meeting of this Board held on 28 April 2021 there had been capital budget adjustments totalling £4.705 million due to continuing amendments to programme timetables as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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 at sections 4 and 6 of the report be noted.

2 Climate Change Sub-committee

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Climate Change Sub-committee held on 2 June 2021.

DECIDED: That the Minute, as appended hereto, be approved.

3 Climate Change Update

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to two funding proposals

which would support the overall progression of the climate emergency work programme and which had been agreed by the Climate Change Sub-committee at its meeting held on 2 June 2021. The proposals, an overview of which was provided in the appendix to the report, related to a requirement to commission external technical expertise and capacity to support development of Renfrewshire's adaptation plan and to support the delivery of the extensive consultation and engagement programme that had been agreed by the sub-committee and which would inform the development of Renfrewshire's net zero plan. The total value of funding requested was £70,000, leaving a balance of £232,000 available for allocation from the Climate Change Action Fund.

The report intimated that in addition the Sub-committee had also agreed that officers develop proposals for consideration by the Sub-committee for the possible establishment of a Community Climate Fund which could be used to support small-scale community-based projects.

DECIDED: That the funding proposals totalling £70,000 from the Climate Change Action Fund be agreed to support those initiatives as detailed in the appendix to the report.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Hughes and McCartin having previously declared an interest in the following item remained in the meeting.

4 Council Plan - Six-month Progress Update

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Council Plan six-month progress update which provided Council-wide progress in relation to the five strategic Council Plan priorities - reshaping our place, economy and future; building strong, safe and resilient communities; tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all; creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy and working together to improve outcomes - and the impact of Covid-19 on these priorities and performance for 2020/21. The appendix to the report provided a detailed summary of progress against key actions and indicators with a full outturn position provided for 2020/21.

The report intimated that in September 2017 the Council approved new Council and Community Plans for Renfrewshire covering the period 2017-2022. Service Plans for each Council service sat beneath this framework and described how the five strategic outcomes of, would be achieved. Alongside Service Plan updates to Policy Boards, progress against the Council Plan objectives was regularly reported to this Board to enable scrutiny of the Council's performance and priorities. The report noted that the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown had meant that regular reporting on progress towards Council and service level priorities was interrupted during 2020. However, strong progress had been made against the five Council Plan priorities. During summer 2020 services worked to restart impacted services in line with Scottish Government guidance.

DECIDED:

(a) That the progress achieved against the strategic outcomes since the last update to this Board in December 2020 as outlined in the appendix to the report be noted; and

- (b) That it be agreed that the next progress report would be in December 2021.

5 **Social Renewal Plan - Action Plan Update**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Social Renewal Plan (SRP) and providing an update on the action plan.

The report intimated that in September 2020 the Council agreed that a community impact (CIA) assessment should be undertaken in Renfrewshire in order to develop an understanding of the impact of Covid-19 on local people and communities. Thereafter, at its meeting held on 4 March 2021 the Council considered the initial findings of the CIA which provided evidence that the pandemic had impacted some people and communities more than others. In the March 2021 report an initial SRP had been approved which set out the high-level actions that the Council and its partners would take with a focus on tackling inequality and improving wellbeing and agreed £2.706 million to support delivery of the SRP. Following an initial assessment three actions to be progressed as a priority were identified - income, poverty and financial security; community resilience and capacity, and digital exclusion. The report proposed that £0.665 million be allocated to support activities in relation to these three key themes and provided details of what was being done and what needed to happen next on each of the three themes.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the work that had been undertaken to progress the Social Renewal Plan in Renfrewshire be noted; and
- (b) That the proposals detailed within section 4 of the report to allocate £0.665 million of funding to progress a number of immediate priorities identified through the Social Renewal Plan, with the breakdown of funding as detailed in section 4 of the report, be agreed.

6 **Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report 2021**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Local Child Poverty Action Report 2021.

The report intimated that the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 required that each local authority and each relevant health board must jointly prepare and publish a Local Child Poverty Action Report annually. The report must describe measures taken during the reporting year that reduced child poverty or improved outcomes for children living in poverty and must described planned and proposed future actions. It was noted that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, last year's report had been approved by the Leadership Board at its meeting held on 16 September 2020, which was as soon as practicable but delayed from the usual reporting cycle. This year's report was submitted within the regular reporting schedule outlined within the legislation. The report, which had been developed jointly by the Council, NHS Great Glasgow & Clyde and Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership, set out activities undertaken in Renfrewshire to reduce child poverty between April 2020 and March 2021 as well as planned and proposed actions for the future.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the content of the draft Local Child Poverty Action Report 2020/21 be noted; and
- (b) That the Local Child Poverty Action Report be approved for publication.

7 **Organisational Recovery & Transition and Right for Renfrewshire - Change and Transformation Programme**

Under reference to item 3(a) of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 17 December 2020 there was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance & Resources providing an update on the tranche 1 service redesigns as well as outlining areas that would now be commenced as part of tranche 2.

The report noted that tranche 2 was relatively small-scale and was focussed on those areas of Council service which were not expected at this time to be impacted significantly by the transition of the Covid-19 demands of dealing with the immediate virus containment and subsequent vaccination programme, the recovery phase covering economic, education and community and social recovery as well as the recovery of the organisation as there was a transition back towards a phased return to offices.

The report also outlined the work that was and would continue to be progressed over the summer period specifically in response to the anticipation of the relaxation of restrictions that would facilitate a phased re-opening of office accommodation and referred to planning for prioritisation of access. It was recognised that as organisations returned to office accommodation that ways of working have changed permanently and there was a need to take this into account and learn from the Covid-19 remote working experience. The report highlighted that this would bring specific challenges in respect of which the Council required to be prepared but that the opportunities presented to design and develop a new way of working should be maximised to ensure that the Council was best placed to support communities and businesses through the recovery process into the post-pandemic period.

The report intimated that it was an appropriate time to consider the existing service arrangements within Finance & Resources which had been in place for around six years and which would reduce the Chief Officer structure within the service securing an approximate revenue saving of £0.110 million per annum and details of the proposed changes were outlined.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the update provided in section 3 of the report be noted in relation to the planning work being progressed to manage the commencement of the organisation recovery and transition from the existing remote working model operating across many aspects of services since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic to the beginning of a hybrid working environment as office restrictions were expected to ease over the coming weeks and months;
- (b) That the latest update on the Right for Renfrewshire Programme and the progress achieved in relation to the tranche 1 service redesigns as outlined in section 4 of the report be noted;

(c) That the changes to the Finance & Resources service structure outlined in section 5 of the report be approved and that it be noted that detailed transition planning to support this restructuring and associated detailed service design work would be progressed over the second half of 2021 as part of the Right for Renfrewshire Programme; and

(d) That it be noted that further reports would be brought to future cycles of the Board to provide updates on the progress achieved in relation to the programme and in time the identification of those service areas that would be proposed to constitute tranche 3 of the programme once the demands of the Covid-19 recovery programme was better understood.

8 **Economic Recovery Plan 6 Month Update (June 2021)**

There was submitted a six-month update report by the Chief Executive relative to the Economic Recovery Plan, approved by the Renfrewshire Economic Leadership Panel and Renfrewshire Council.

The report intimated that the plan was dependent upon the continued support and contributions of a range of local partners, many of whom lead of specific elements of delivery. The appendices to the report provided an update on the recovery plan which it was noted took its lead from the Scottish Government's approach to economic recovery but which focussed on actions that would make the biggest difference in the local context. It would continue to be reviewed on a six-monthly basis.

It was noted that reference on page 237 of the agenda to the consultation underway by the City Deal team on the proposed Inchinnan to Renfrew travel link, should instead be Inchinnan Business Park to AMIDS.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Renfrewshire Economic Recovery Plan June 2021 update as appended to the report be noted; and

(b) That it be noted that reference on page 237 of the agenda to the consultation underway by the City Deal team on the proposed Inchinnan to Renfrew travel link, should instead be Inchinnan Business Park to AMIDS.

9 **Renfrewshire Levelling up Fund Bid 2021**

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the submission of an application on behalf of the Council to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund to support the delivery of the AMIDS South project. The Programme Director – City Deal and Infrastructure gave a presentation to the Board on the scope of the bid proposals.

The report intimated that the Levelling Up Fund was a competitive fund with funding distributed to places across the UK on the basis of successful project selection. The Fund aimed to invest in local infrastructure that had a visible impact on people and their communities. The report detailed the three themes under which bids could be submitted - transport; regeneration and town centre investment and cultural investment.

The report noted that the Council and its partners were delivering an ambitious regeneration agenda, focussed on creating the infrastructure and business environment that would generate economic growth, jobs and ensure that the area was in a fairer, more inclusive place where people, communities and businesses could thrive. The report outlined that the delivery of AMIDS included transport infrastructure. However, this infrastructure did not extend to all nearby settlements where ideally the AMIDS workforce would be accommodated or whose residents might be expected to benefit most from the economic and employment opportunities being created. The report proposed that there be a bid to the Levelling UP Fund under the transport theme in relation to the AMIDS South proposal as detailed in the report. Bids were required to be submitted by noon on 18 June 2021. It was noted that a successful bid would provide £38.73 million funding for the project representing 90% of the total estimated project costs and the report outlined how the Council would meet its funding contribution. In addition, officers were actively progressing other potential additional avenues of funding that might be secured to assist in the project delivery which should they be successful would reduce the prudential borrowing requirement from the Council.

The report indicated that other projects for submission in future years of the Fund would be developed, including a potential bid which would support the aims and objectives of the Paisley Community Trust in the delivery of their project in Paisley Town Centre.

It was proposed that reference to the area's deprivation status be included within the bid. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the Chief Executive be authorised to submit a bid to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund under the Transport theme, as outlined in the report, for £38.73 million of funding and that the requirement in doing so it be agreed that the Council commit to the provision of a local authority contribution as detailed in the report;
- (b) That it be noted that the draft final bid application and outline business case were available to members for their review in advance of this meeting as required, and in recognition of the tight timescales for their development; and that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to make any minor changes that might be necessary prior to submission to the UK Government on 18 June 2021;
- (c) That the written support of Gavin Newlands MP, the Constituency MP for the area covered by the bid be noted, in line with the bidding guidance, and also the written support of a wide range of partners across Renfrewshire in support of the Council's proposed application as detailed in the report;
- (d) That it be noted that a presentation on the scope of the bid proposals was provided at this Board meeting;
- (e) That it be noted that even if this bid should be successful, that the Council was still eligible to make two further bids in future years of the Levelling Up Fund and that officers would continue to work to develop options for consideration by members in due course; and
- (f) That reference to the area's deprivation status be included within the bid.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Hughes and McCartin having previously declared an interest in the following item remained in the meeting.

10 UK Government Community Renewal Fund Application 2021

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to a proposed bid to the UK Government Community Renewal Fund.

The report intimated that in March 2021 the UK Government announced a Community Renewal Fund of £220 million to pilot local area approaches during 2021/22 to help stimulate local economic recovery. The Fund aimed to act as a pilot programme to allow areas to prepare for and take advantage of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which would replace current EU funding programmes when it launched in 2022. It was noted that 100 priority areas had been identified across the UK based largely on employment/unemployment/poverty factors with the aim of levelling up these areas to average UK levels. However, Renfrewshire had not been identified as one of the priority areas due to higher than average levels of employment, lower levels of economic inactivity and other socio-economic factors. Priority areas within Scotland were highlighted in the report.

It was noted that the fund was a competitive process with no pre-set eligibility with the focus being to 'level up' and create opportunity. The 100 priority areas would be prioritised for funding. Scottish local authorities were expected to act as lead authority for their local bid and should provide a shortlist of projects up to a maximum of £3 million per place for submission to the programme. Funding of 90% was available to support revenue costs. The deadline for submission of project shortlists was noon on 18 June 2021. The report detailed how Renfrewshire bids totalling £1.631 million had been selected for progression to the Community Renewal Fund and an outline of the bids was provided within the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the opportunity presented through the Community Renewal Fund and the open and transparent approach taken in Renfrewshire be noted; and

(b) That the submission of the Renfrewshire bid to the UK Government consisting of three individual proposals relating to the themes of investing in skills, local business and communities/place be supported.

11 Regeneration Fund Bids Update – Priority Themes

There was submitted an update report by the Chief Executive relative to regeneration funding bids.

The report intimated that funding of regeneration projects and programmes had for several years been reliant on national government grant funding which had often been determined through competitive annual bidding processes. The report noted that this year both the Scottish and UK governments had announced new funding programmes - the Levelling Up Fund, Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme and the Place Based Investment Programme through which the governments were channelling capital investment into local economies. The report set out the purposes behind the

available funds and presented a set of priorities that officers would pursue through applications to appropriate funding programmes and by utilising capital budget available from the March 2020 Council budget.

In addition, the report advised that the Scottish Government had written to all local authorities launching the Place Based Investment Programme and that the Director of Finance & Resources had accepted the offer of £1.195 million for financial year 2021/22 the deadline for acceptance of which had been 21 May 2021.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the decision of the Director of Finance & Resources to accept the grant offer from the Scottish Government Place Based Investment Programme of £1.195 million for 2021/22 be homologated;
- (b) That the set of priority themes set out in section 5 of the report to be pursued through available funding programmes be agreed; and
- (c) That the submission of five projects to this year's round of applications for the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund as set out in section 6 of the report be noted, with any that are invited onto the short list being reported back to Board for formal approval of their continuation in the process or acceptance of grant funding.

12 **Paisley Town Centre Vision Update**

There was submitted an update report by the Chief Executive relative to the delivery of the Paisley Town Centre Vision which had been launched in January 2020. The aims of the project, to explore the diversification of the town centre and how it might need to physically adapt and change, had become more pertinent due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the retail sector and on high streets across the country. The report intimated that a significant part of the vision was the consideration of how large floorspace property, like shopping centres, might have to change as demand for retail space continued to decline. One of the case studies for the Vision was the Paisley Centre which occupied a significant part of the urban block between the High Street, Causeyside Street and New Street, Paisley.

The report noted that over the last six months, Beyond Retail, had been developing mixed use redevelopment proposals for the Paisley Centre, using the ideas developed in the Vision as their guide. In addition to the Council, Beyond Retail had also engaged with the University of the West of Scotland and with Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Trust to explore potentials and options for the use of space within the redeveloped Centre. The report referred to the emerging and deliverable masterplan for a radical reconfiguration of the Centre and noted that the masterplan would be launched soon and the owner intended to commence the planning application process before the end of 2021. In the meantime Beyond Retail would continue to operate the Paisley Centre as a going concern.

DECIDED: That it be noted that following the launch of the Vision for Paisley Town Centre in 2020, proposals for the repurposing and partial redevelopment of the Paisley Centre were being discussed with the Council.

13 **Freeports/Greenports - Potential Glasgow City Region Bid Update**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to a potential bid by Glasgow City Region member authorities, in partnership with the private sector in the Glasgow City Region, for a Freeport (Greenport) designation.

The report intimated that the bid would only be submitted following publication of, and in response to, a prospectus seeking such bids by the Scottish Government which was expected in summer 2021. The report noted that the freeport concept had been in existence for some time around the world and that there were an estimated 3,000 such designations worldwide, located primarily at sea ports, and operated as secure custom zones subject to bespoke custom and tax arrangements. Scotland had an established freeport at Prestwick Airport for many years although this designation ceased in 2012. The report highlighted that the UK Government consulted in 2020 on the principle of establishing 10 new freeports across the UK with the desire to have at least one freeport in Scotland. Eight new freeports have been announced for England. The designation of such zones is a devolved matter. The publication of the Scottish prospectus was delayed due to the Scottish elections as well as awaiting sign-off on elements from the UK Government but the report indicated that it was likely to be released to bidders by the summer, although there was no indication as yet of timescales or deadlines for bids. It was noted that following the publication of the prospectus for a Scottish Freeport 'greenport', the Glasgow Clyde Region would commence work on a submission to the Scottish Government.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the potential for a combined bid by Glasgow City Region local authorities for a Freeport/Greenport designation during 2021 be noted;
- (b) That it be agreed that Renfrewshire Council participate in the preparation of submission of such a bid to the Scottish Government; and
- (c) That if required, due to the timing of a bid submission, authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to confirm the content of such a bid and designation as it affected Renfrewshire.

14 **Economic Spotlight report – Johnstone and the Villages**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the second in a series of 'Spotlight' reports on Renfrewshire's economy and key locations. The focus of this report was on Johnstone and the West Villages and information was provided in relation to population, businesses, employment, connectivity, impacts of the pandemic, investment and case studies of the Scottish Leather Group, Smith and McLaurin, Ingliston Country Club and Hotel and Mar Hall Golf Resort and Spa. It was noted that further updates would focus on other important employment locations such as Inchinnan Business Park, Glasgow Airport and Braehead.

DECIDED: That the content of the Johnstone and West Villages spotlight report as appended to the report be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Board resolved to exclude the press and public 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 could be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

15 **Afghan Resettlement and Assistance Programme**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing relative to Renfrewshire's participation in the Afghan resettlement and assistance programme.

DECIDED: That Renfrewshire's participation in the Afghan resettlement and assistance programme be approved.