

## Minute of Meeting Council

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 28 September 2017	09:30	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

**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 Natalie Don, Councillor Alison Jean Dowling, Councillor Edward Grady, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Karen Kennedy, Councillor Paul Mack, 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 John Shaw, Councillor Andy Steel, Councillor Jane Strang

### In Attendance

S Black, Chief Executive; P MacLeod, Director of Children's Services; A Morrison, Acting Director of Development & Housing Services; M Crearie, Director of Development & Housing Services; S MacDougall, Director of Environment & Communities; A Russell, Director of Finance & Resources; D Leese, Chief Officer (Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); D Amos, Head of Policy & Commissioning, L Mahon, Head of Marketing and A Armstrong-Walter, Tackling Poverty & Welfare Reform Manager (both Chief Executive's); F Carlin, Head of Planning & Housing Services (Development & Housing Services); A MacArthur, Head of Finance, J Lynch, Head of Property, M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, L Belshaw, Democratic Services Manager, D Low, Senior Committee Services Officer (LACs) and R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

### Chair

Provost Cameron presided.

Prior to the start of the meeting Provost Cameron advised that the microphones in the Council Chamber were faulty and sought the views of elected members as to whether to adjourn the meeting, to enable action to be taken to resolve the issue, or to proceed with the meeting. The consensus was that the meeting should proceed.

## **Apologies**

Councillors Kerr and Sharkey.

## **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Audrey Doig declared a financial interest in respect of item 3 of the agenda – Best Value Assurance Report, item 4 of the agenda – Paisley's Bid for UK City of Culture 2021 and item 14 (Notice of Motion 4) as she was an employee of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. She indicated that it was her intention to leave the meeting during consideration of these items and not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Andy Doig declared a financial interest in respect of item 3 of the agenda – Best Value Assurance Report, item 4 of the agenda - Paisley's Bid for UK City of Culture 2021 and item 14 (Notice of Motion 4) as he was the husband of an employee of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. He indicated that it was his intention to leave the meeting during consideration of these items and not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Hughes declared a non-financial interest in respect of item 3 of the agenda – Best Value Assurance Report, item 4 of the agenda - Paisley's Bid for UK City of Culture 2021 and item 14 (Notice of Motion 4) as she was Chair of the Board of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. Councillor Hughes indicated that as she had a general dispensation from the Standards Commission which allowed her to take part and to vote in relation to such matters it was her intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of these items.

Councillor McCartin declared a non-financial interest in respect of item 3 of the agenda – Best Value Assurance Report, item 4 of the agenda - Paisley's Bid for UK City of Culture 2021 and item 14 (Notice of Motion 4) as she was a member of the Board of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. Councillor McCartin indicated that as she had a general dispensation from the Standards Commission which allowed her to take part and to vote in relation to such matters it was her intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of these items.

Councillor Graham declared a non-financial interest in respect of item 7 of the agenda – Annual Report by the Chief Social Work Officer - as he was a volunteer with Barnardos.

Councillor McNaughtan declared a non-financial interest in respect of item 12 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 2 - as he was a member of the 1820 Society.

## **Additional Items**

Provost Cameron intimated that there was an additional report in relation to the Paisley Museum Project which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. Provost Cameron, being of the opinion that the report, which was dealt with at item 4 below, should be considered as a matter of urgency, to enable the offer of grant to be accepted and the project to be progressed as part of the Council's capital investment programme, authorised its consideration.

Councillor Devine intimated that he wished to table an emergency motion which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting and he requested that this be taken as an additional item of business. Provost Cameron intimated that the Leader of the Council had indicated that the matter would be dealt with at the Leadership Board.

Councillor Mack intimated that he wished to table an emergency motion which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting and he requested that this be taken as an additional item of business. Provost Cameron ruled, in terms of Standing Order 14, that as there were no special circumstances which required the matter to be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, the motion would not be taken as an additional item of business.

## **Order of Business**

In terms of Standing Order 16, the Provost indicated that she intended to alter the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting by considering the additional report in relation to the Paisley Museum Project after item 3 of the agenda and Notices of Motion 2 and 17 together, with the Notice of Motion 17 being considered as an amendment to Notice of Motion 2.

## **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Audrey Doig then declared a financial interest in respect of the additional report to be considered, entitled Paisley Museum Project, as she was an employee of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. She indicated that it was her intention to leave the meeting during consideration of the item and not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Andy Doig then declared a financial interest in respect of the additional report to be considered, entitled Paisley Museum Project, as the husband of an employee of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. He indicated that it was his intention to leave the meeting during consideration of the item and not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Hughes then declared a non-financial interest in respect of the additional report to be considered, entitled Paisley Museum Project, as she was Chair of the Board of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. Councillor Hughes indicated that as she had a general dispensation from the Standards Commission which allowed her to take part and to vote in relation to such matters it was her intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor McCartin then declared a non-financial interest in respect of the additional report to be considered, entitled Paisley Museum Project, as she was a member of the Board of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. Councillor McCartin indicated that as she had a general dispensation from the Standards Commission which allowed her to take part and to vote in relation to such matters it was her intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of the item.

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

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

Council, 29 June 2017  
Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel, 30 June 2017  
Paisley North Local Area Committee 17 August 2017  
Cross Party Sounding Board, 22 August 2017  
Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee, 22 August 2017  
Regulatory Functions Board, 23 August 2017  
Education and Children's Services Policy Board, 24 August 2017  
Johnstone and the Villages Local Area Committee, 24 August 2017  
Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board, 28 August 2017  
Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board, 29 August 2017  
Paisley South Local Area Committee, 29 August 2017  
Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board, 30 August 2017  
Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board, 30 August 2017  
Petitions Board, 30 August 2017  
Council, 30 August 2017  
Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside and Erskine Local Area Committee, 30 August 2017  
Regulatory Functions Board, 7 September 2017  
Leadership Board, 19 September 2017  
Regulatory Functions Board, 20 September 2017  
Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board, 26 September 2017

**DECIDED:** That the Minutes be approved.

## **2 Report on Audit of Accounts 2016/17**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the audit of the Council's 2016/17 annual accounts, which had been undertaken by the Council's appointed external auditors, Audit Scotland.

The report highlighted that the audit process had been completed and that an audit opinion, free from qualification, had been provided. In terms of the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, the Council required to consider and approve the Annual Accounts for signature no later than 30 September each year. The Assistant Director of Audit (Local Government) had previously provided a report detailing all matters arising over the course of the 2016/17 audit to the meeting of the Council's Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board, held on 26 September 2017, for consideration. In addition the report intimated that the accounts of the charities controlled by the Council had also been audited by Audit Scotland and separate audit opinions on these accounts had been provided in accordance with the charities regulations and best practice promoted by the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR). Copies of the accounts for Renfrew, Paisley and Johnstone Common Good Funds and Renfrewshire Council Trust Funds were provided as appendices to the report for approval.

### **DECIDED:**

- (a) That the Council's Annual Accounts 2016/17 be approved for signature, in accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014;
- (b) That the 2016/17 accounts of the Renfrew, Paisley and Johnstone Common Good Funds and Renfrewshire Council Trust Funds be approved and authority be delegated to the Director of Finance & Resources to submit these accounts to OSCR in accordance with the relevant regulations; and
- (c) That the annual audit report be noted.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Audrey Doig and Andy Doig having previously declared an interest in items 3, 4 and 5(a) and (b) below, left the meeting.

Councillors Hughes and McCartin having previously declared an interest in items 3, 4 and 5(a) and (b) below, remained in the meeting.

## **3 Best Value Assurance Report - Renfrewshire Council**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the findings of the Accounts Commission in respect of the Council's compliance with its Best Value duty, as well as the scope and process of the best value audit. The Accounts Commission Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) on Renfrewshire Council, which had been considered by the Accounts Commission at its meeting on 10 August 2017, was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The report provided an assessment of the Council and its performance, since the previous audit in 2006. Overall the report was positive, providing independent assurance to local residents and businesses on the extent to which the Council was achieving best value. The report also confirmed Audit Scotland's view that the Council had a clear and ambitious vision for the area which was shared with partners, was working well with partners to address the challenges facing the organisation and the Renfrewshire area, and managed the Council's finances effectively. In publishing the report, the Accounts Commission noted that "Renfrewshire Council continued to improve and was making encouraging progress in the performance of its services". Audit Scotland had also provided direction on the key areas on which the Council should focus its improvement activities going forward. The report included recommendations relating to cross-party working, community engagement, partnership working, workforce planning, member training and development and governance arrangements. An action plan had been developed to progress these recommendations and was attached as Appendix 2 to the report. It was highlighted that the actions contained therein would be embedded within the Council Plan and Community Plans and be driven, at service level, through Service Improvement Plans. An annual update on progress against the action plan, and on continuing best value audit activity relating to the Council, would be reported to the Leadership Board.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the report and the Council's Best Value Assurance report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (b) That the action plan, provided as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved; and
- (c) That it be noted that progress in terms of implementing the action plan would be reported to the Leadership Board on an annual basis, along with an update on ongoing best value audit activity.

**4 Paisley Museum Project**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Development & Housing Services relative to the outcome of the funding application, submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund, in respect of the Paisley Museum project.

The report referred to the decision taken at the meeting of the Leadership Board held on 20 June 2017 to approve the submission of a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for £4.9 million towards the total project costs of £42 million for the Paisley Museum project, advised that confirmation had been received from HLF that the application had been successful and provided an update in connection with proposed action for delivery of the project in line with the Council's cultural regeneration strategy. The report detailed the planned outcomes for the project and sought authority to accept the grant from HLF, to progress the project at the currently scoped level of £42 million and outlined the position in terms of the balance of the funding package to be secured. It was noted that, as outlined previously, the Paisley Museum Project was expected to be delivered within the approved timescale of 2017/22.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That it be noted that the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, approved at the meeting of the Leadership Board held on 20 June 2017, for £4.9 million towards the Paisley Museum Project, had been successful;
- (b) That the Chief Executive be authorised to accept the offer of Heritage Lottery Fund grant and the associated terms and conditions on behalf of the Council; and
- (c) That it be agreed that the project, as outlined at the meeting of the Leadership Board on 20 June 2017, be progressed as part of the Council's overall capital investment programme.

**5(a) Paisley's Bid for UK City of Culture 2021 - Investment in 2021 Venues and Town Centre Infrastructure**

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and Director of Finance & Resources relative to Paisley's Bid for UK City of Culture 2021 and, in particular, the package of investment proposals and recommendations for venues and infrastructure to support the bid.

The role that culture and heritage played in supporting economic and community vibrancy, which had been reflected in the long-term priority the Council had placed on investment in cultural, heritage and community assets across Renfrewshire over the last decade, was highlighted. Within this strategic context, the Council had progressed for a number of years the implementation of a culture-led economic regeneration programme within Paisley town centre. To date the implementation of this strategy had included a range of targeted investment in strategically-important assets within the town centre including the museum, the new museum store, the new learning and community hub and the redevelopment of the Arnotts site and Russell Institute. The perceived benefits if Paisley were to win the UK City of Culture title were highlighted.

The report detailed the next phase of investment in key assets to progress the delivery of the long-term strategic regeneration agenda for the town centre, including short, medium and long term investment proposals and recommendations relating to Paisley Town Hall, Paisley Arts Centre, St James Playing Fields, Town Centre Public Realm sites, flexible Outdoor Space, Travel and Accessibility Improvements and the property at 56-58 Back Sneddon Street, Paisley. The requirement for the proposals to be progressed in order for a sufficiently detailed and prioritised programme of proposals to be further developed was highlighted. In addition it was noted that a report on the overall proposed programme of works would be submitted to a future meeting of the relevant Board in advance of works commencing. The report stated that the proposed package of investment outlined in the report would meet the Council's obligations to protect, maintain and future-proof its buildings and infrastructure and improve services to the Renfrewshire communities.

Reference was made within the report to the key role of the investment proposals in the success of the Stage 1 bid for UK City of Culture 2021, to the achievement in reaching the shortlisting stage of the competition, the work undertaken in response to the Stage 2 submission requirements and the resources already committed by the Council to the plans, in the setting of its 2017/18 budget. It was noted that a critical element of the Stage 2 bid was demonstrating that progress had been made, since submission of the Stage 1 bid, in terms of funding and planning for the delivery of key elements of the infrastructure required to deliver a successful year of culture. Full details of the specific projects proposed, the early enabling works required and the estimated financial costs were provided.

**DECIDED:**

- (i) That the report and the importance that the full package of investment proposals outlined in the report had in directly supporting the 2021 bid, as well as delivering the long-term regeneration objectives for Paisley Town Centre and the wider Renfrewshire area be noted;
- (ii) That the Council make provision in its medium to longer-term debt smoothing strategy and financial planning arrangements, to supplement the resources, already committed by the Council in its 2017/18 budget, to support the prudential borrowing required to allow the full suite of investment outlined in the report to be progressed for delivery by 2021;

(iii) That it be agreed that the early enabling works outlined at Section 5.3 of the report be approved for progression and that a report on the overall proposed programme of works be submitted to a future meeting of the relevant Policy Board in advance of works commencing; and

(iv) That it be noted that regular reporting arrangements to the appropriate Board would be provided during the development and delivery phase of the investment programme.

## **5(b) Paisley's Bid for City of Culture 2021 - Paisley's Final Stage Bid for UK City of Culture 2021**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Paisley Bid for UK City of Culture 2021.

The report indicated that the UK City of Culture title was a competition developed by the UK Government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in consultation with the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The competition was managed by the UK Government. Reference was made to the decision taken at the meeting of the Council held on 25 June 2015 to authorise the Chief Executive to put in place the necessary arrangements and resources to take forward a bid for Paisley to compete in the UK City of Culture 2021 competition. Subsequently Paisley 2021 Partnership Board had been established to put in place a whole town partnership to drive forward the development of the bid. The first-stage bid had been submitted and had been successful in being shortlisted. Thereafter positive feedback had been received about the strengths of the Paisley Bid, together with a revised set of guidance for the final-stage Bid which specified the additional information required. It was highlighted that the final-stage Bid required a succinct summary of elements of the Bid, with more specific and detailed information on the delivery of the Bid, including management and governance arrangements, how legacy would be delivered and sustained, information on budgets and funding commitments and the status of agreements reached with cultural and business partners and sponsors, along with a detailed mobilisation plan to demonstrate capability for maintaining momentum and delivery, immediately if announced as the winner.

In view of the competitive nature of the bidding process, the need to maintain confidentiality in terms of the content of the Bid document and the importance of members having the opportunity to access the Bid before considering it for approval, the Bid document had been made available to elected members in advance of the Council meeting. In addition a briefing had been held on 27 September 2017, which had provided an opportunity for elected members to hear a presentation on the Bid and for their questions to be answered.

The Bid document summarised the vision and themes of the Bid, the step changes which it was planned to achieve, examples of the types of cultural events to be hosted, and the economic, social and tourism impacts that winning the competition would deliver for Paisley and the wider area, together with the more detailed information required in terms of the final Bid. It was noted that at the meeting of the Partnership Board held on 18 September 2017 the content of the final stage Bid had been endorsed. The report sought approval of the Council, as lead partner, to submit the final Bid on behalf of Paisley. A summary of the remainder of the competition timetable was provided including the visit of the judges' delegation to



Paisley, the presentation of the Bid, in Hull, to the full judging panel and the anticipated timeline for announcement of the winning submission.

**DECIDED:**

- (i) That the submission of the final stage Bid on behalf of the partnership for Paisley to become UK City of Culture 2021 be approved;
- (ii) That the competitive nature of the bidding process and the requirement to maintain the confidentiality of the content of Paisley's Bid, even after submission, be noted;
- (iii) That it be noted that the final outcome of the Bid would be announced in December 2017 in Hull;
- (iv) That the overwhelming level of support that had been received from across the community, local and national partners and the business community during the bidding process be noted and welcomed;
- (v) That the Chief Executive be authorised to take forward all necessary arrangements to prepare for the judges' visit to Paisley and the final presentation of the town's Bid to the judging panel; and
- (vi) That it be agreed that if Paisley was successful in winning the competition the Chief Executive be authorised to take forward all necessary arrangements to activate and implement the mobilisation plan contained within the Stage 2 Bid submission.

**Sederunt**

Councillors Audrey Doig and Andy Doig returned to the meeting during consideration of the following item of business.

**6 Council Plan 2017-22**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Council Plan 2017/22.

The report stated that the Council Plan (the Plan) was a key strategic document, which detailed for Council employees, local people, businesses, partner organisations and voluntary organisations, what the Council aimed to achieve over a period of time. Along with Renfrewshire's Community Plan, the Plan provided a "golden thread", to ensure that the key strategic priorities of the Council translated into specific actions within service improvement plans, in order that there was clarity on the role that all Council services played in terms of delivering on these objectives.

Reference was made to the period of change, challenge and uncertainty which the Council faced and, in particular, to the significant financial challenges to be managed by the Council in light of reduced funding levels and factors such as Brexit, while also addressing the impact of demographic change and the changing needs of local people, communities and businesses. The report indicated that there was a need for the Council to embrace the opportunities which these challenges

could unlock, particularly in relation to cultural and economic regeneration, community empowerment and digitisation of services. Accordingly the Council Plan 2017/22 required to be an ambitious yet flexible strategic plan which supported the organisation to remain agile and to address new challenges and opportunities over the period as required.

The Council Plan 2017/22, a copy of which had been appended to the report, had been developed in tandem with the Renfrewshire Community Plan 2017/27. Combining development of the Plans had provided the opportunity for the Council to agree outcomes with key community planning partners, which partners could then focus on achieving. The Council Plan and Community Plan had been developed through an extensive programme of work which made use of information the Council and its partners had about local people, businesses, communities and services, to identify potential challenges and opportunities for Renfrewshire, involved consultation and engagement with communities through a series of public events, local area committee meetings and online surveys of local people, and identified key themes and priorities through discussions with strategic partners, community planning governance structures and elected members. It was noted that a key element of the development process had been the consideration of the Council Plan and Community Plan at meetings of the Cross Party Sounding Board during which members of the Board had engaged in a discussion on the priorities emerging from the consultation and engagement process and provided direction on the focus of both Plans.

The Plan set out the vision of “Working together for a thriving and connected Renfrewshire, creating opportunities for all”. The Plan was high level in nature and detailed how the Council would work with partners, communities and businesses to progress five key outcomes namely: Reshaping our place, our economy and our 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. Detailed actions and performance measures relating to each of these outcomes would be driven forward through Service Improvement Plans and a performance framework for the Plan would be developed and submitted for consideration to the meeting of the Leadership Board to be held on 12 December 2017.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the Council Plan 2017/22, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (b) That it be noted that the Council Plan had been considered at the meeting of the Cross Party Sounding Board held on 22 August, 2017;
- (c) That it be noted that that a performance scorecard for the Council Plan would be developed and submitted for consideration to the meeting of the Leadership Board to be held on 12 December, 2017; and
- (d) That progress be reported to the Leadership Board on a six-monthly basis.

## **7 Community Plan "Our Renfrewshire 2017-2027"**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Community Plan, "Our Renfrewshire 2017/27".

The report stated that the Community Plan set out the key priorities for Renfrewshire which would be targeted by community planning partners with local communities over the ten-year period of the Plan. The Community Empowerment Act 2015 had introduced a statutory requirement for community planning partners to publish a new ten-year Local Outcome Improvement Plan (Community Plan) by 1 October 2017. The development of a Community Plan was a shared responsibility between the statutory Community Planning Partners across Renfrewshire. The 2017/27 Plan had been developed in partnership and in tandem with the new Council Plan and would be delivered through the Community Planning governance arrangements which had been reviewed and refreshed during 2016. The Plan had also been considered at the meeting of the Cross Party Sounding Board held on 22 August, 2017.

### **DECIDED:**

- (a) That it be noted that the Council shared statutory responsibility for the Community Plan with the other Community Planning Partners in Renfrewshire;
- (b) That it be noted that the Community Plan had been considered at the meeting of the Cross Party Sounding Board held on 22 August 2017;
- (c) That the Council's role in the delivery of the Community Plan be endorsed; and
- (d) That it be noted that the Community Planning Partnership Oversight Group would provide oversight of the Council's contribution to the Community Plan, and would receive progress reports on a six-monthly basis.

### **Declaration of Interest**

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

## **8 Annual Report by the Chief Social Work Officer**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the 2016/17 annual report by the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). In Renfrewshire this role was held by the Director of Children's Services.

The report provided an overview of the role of the CSWO, referred to the key areas of activity of the CSWO locally, outlined the issues and challenges encountered during 2016/17, local arrangements for the discharge of the functions of the post and provided an overview of activities undertaken by social work services together with the key priorities for 2017/18. A copy of the annual report by Chief Social Work Officer was appended to the report.

The report intimated that the scope of the CSWO role covered all social work and social care services, whether provided directly by the local authority, or in partnership with others. Where these services were purchased or commissioned from external providers, the CSWO had responsibility to advise on the specification,

quality and standards of services commissioned. Revised guidance notes had been issued noting the role of the CSWO in providing professional advice and guidance to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on social work matters which had been delegated to the IJB and the changed environment in which social work services were now delivered.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the key activities outlined within the report be noted;
- (b) That it be noted that the report would be submitted to the Office of the Chief Social Work Officer at the Scottish Government; and
- (c) That it be agreed that the next update be submitted to the meeting of the Council to be held in Autumn 2018.

## **9 Collaboration to Deliver Excellence and Equity in Education**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Scottish Government's response to the consultation undertaken in respect of educational governance and the publication launched thereafter outlining plans for reform.

The report advised that the proposals outlined in the publication would result potentially in significant changes to the way in which education services were organised in Scotland and that it was anticipated that these changes would have wide-ranging consequences for the role of local authorities in the delivery of education to children and young people in their communities. The Scottish Government's commitment to these changes had been reiterated in the First Minister's statement to Parliament on 4 September 2017 in relation to the programme for government over the next year.

The report advised that the main principle of the review was to seek to devolve power from a national level to a regional level and from a local government level to a school level. The stated aim was to empower schools and teachers to drive improvement at a local level with others in the system sharing responsibility for collaborating to support the improvement. Reference was made to the report, considered at the meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2017, on the planned changes. It was highlighted that legislation would be required in order to enact many of the proposals and that it was anticipated that a new education bill would be placed before parliament during June 2018, imposing revised duties on local authorities, head teachers and the newly-formed regional improvement collaboratives. In addition many areas of the proposals would require further clarification and it was anticipated that this would emerge over the coming months as the Scottish Government engaged with local authorities and professional organisations through further consultation exercises. The Council's response to each of these consultations would be reported to the appropriate Policy Board, in due course, for consideration, the first of which relating to the funding of schools, had been considered and agreed at the meeting of the Education and Children's Services Policy Board held on 24 August 2017.

The Council was one of the partners in the Glasgow City Region, a group of eight local authorities working together to deliver a shared vision of “a strong, inclusive, competitive and outward-looking economy, sustaining growth and prosperity with every person and business reaching their full potential”. One of the objectives for the group was to create a skills and employment system that met the current and future needs of Glasgow City Region businesses and supported residents to access jobs and progression opportunities. The Glasgow City Region Cabinet had recently considered a proposal to create a ‘Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative’ and to appoint a ‘Regional Lead Officer’ to lead the work of the collaborative. The Group proposed that new governance arrangements, involving the conveners of Education and Children’s Services from the eight constituent local authorities be established to oversee the work of the collaborative. It was highlighted that Renfrewshire Council’s involvement in the Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative, if agreed, was subject to approvals being in place in respect of the participation of the other constituent authorities in the City Region.

Councillor Paterson, seconded by Councillor Nicolson moved:-

- (a) That the Scottish Government’s renewed commitment to support a regional improvement collaborative model be noted;
- (b) That the report be noted and that it also be noted that responses to consultation documents related to it would be submitted to elected members for consideration and approval;
- (c) That Renfrewshire Council’s membership of a Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative, be approved, in principle;
- (d) That the formation of a Glasgow City Region Education Joint Committee of conveners of education (or equivalent) with authority to oversee the work of the Regional Improvement Collaborative be approved;
- (e) That the appointment of the Convener of the Education and Children’s Services Policy Board to the oversight group be approved;
- (f) That it be noted that it was the intention of any regional collaborative to appoint a ‘Regional Lead Officer’; and
- (g) That it be noted that further reports would be submitted to future meetings of the Council providing updates on the progress of the establishment of the committee.

Councillor McCartin, seconded by Councillor Andy Doig, moved as an amendment that this Council rejects moves by the Scottish Government to remove local and democratic control of education from councils. We further reject any suggestion of the development of “City Region” education governance, on the basis that governance of Renfrewshire’s schools should not be, effectively, handed to Glasgow City Council. We demand that John Swinney retracts all notion of this scheme, and uses the funding for this re-organisation to enhance education funding in all local councils.

On the roll being called the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Andy Doig, Graham, Mack, J MacLaren, McCartin, McIntyre and Strang.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Begg, Bibby, Binks, Brown, Burns, J Cameron, Provost L Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Davidson, Devine, Audrey Doig, Don, Dowling, Grady, Harte, Hood, Hughes, Kennedy, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, McCulloch, McEwan, McGurk, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Shaw and Steel.

Councillor Mackay abstained.

Seven members having voted for the amendment, 32 members having voted for the motion, and one member having abstained, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the Scottish Government's renewed commitment to support a regional improvement collaborative model be noted;
- (b) That the report be noted and that it also be noted that responses to consultation documents related to it would be submitted to elected members for consideration and approval;
- (c) That Renfrewshire Council's membership of a Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative, be approved, in principle;
- (d) That the formation of a Glasgow City Region Education Joint Committee of conveners of education (or equivalent) with authority to oversee the work of the Regional Improvement Collaborative be approved;
- (e) That the appointment of the Convener of the Education and Children's Services Policy Board to the oversight group be approved;
- (f) That it be noted that it was the intention of any regional collaborative to appoint a 'Regional Lead Officer'; and
- (g) That it be noted that further reports would be submitted to future meetings of the Council providing updates on the progress of the establishment of the committee.

## **10 Appointments to Boards and Outside Organisations**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the appointment of members to various vacant positions on Council Boards and outside organisations.

The report advised that, in accordance with the decision taken at the meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2017, the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-committee had been established, comprising five members drawn from the membership of the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board. The political groups had subsequently advised that the membership of the Sub-committee would be Councillors McGurk, McNaughtan, M MacLaren, Montgomery and Strang, with Councillors McGurk and McNaughton appointed Convener and Depute Convener respectively.

In terms of section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973 the Council had also agreed, at the Council meeting held on 18 May, 2017, to appoint the Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic Church's nominees to the Education & Children's Services Policy Board. The Council agreed that the third church representative would be the nominee from Paisley Action of Churches Together (PACT), Reverend Graham Currie. Reverend Currie had now intimated that PACT had closed and as a consequence he would no longer be their representative on the Education & Children's Services Policy Board. Accordingly arrangements would be made to secure a replacement nominee and, in the first instance, it was proposed that the Renfrewshire Evangelical Alliance of Churches be approached to submit a nomination.

When considering appointments to outside organisations, the Council agreed at the above meeting (i) that the Administration would appoint the member and substitute member to Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee and Councillor McEwan was appointed as the substantive member. Confirmation had now been received that Councillor Steel was to be the substitute representative; and (ii) that the Administration would appoint five representatives and their substitutes to the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board, the other three representatives and their substitutes being from the opposition parties. The substantive Administration members appointed were Councillors J Cameron, Audrey Doig, K MacLaren, M MacLaren and Steel. Confirmation had now been received that their substitutes were Councillors Paterson, Campbell, Hughes, McNaughtan and Adam-McGregor respectively.

At the meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2017, it was agreed to appoint members to the Children's Champions Board. The political parties represented on the Council had been consulted and had advised that their representatives would be Councillors Bibby, J Cameron, Graham, McCartin, Nicolson and Paterson.

The report advised that correspondence had been received from (i) CoSLA seeking nominations to its four Policy Boards; and (ii) Glasgow Airport FlightPath Committee relative to the appointment of two Council representatives. The Administration had indicated that Renfrewshire Council's nominees for the COSLA Policy Boards would be: Health and Social Care Board – Councillor J Cameron; Community Wellbeing Board – Councillor McGurk; Children and Young People Board – Councillor Paterson; and Environment and Economy Board – Councillor McNaughtan. It was noted that members of the FlightPath Committee usually lived under or near the take off/landing areas and that the Committee had advised that Councillor Nicolson, who had been a member of the Committee since 2010, and Councillor Binks, who had also previously been a member of the Committee, had been invited to be the Council representatives.

### **DECIDED:**

(a) That it be noted that the membership of the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-committee was Councillors McGurk, McNaughtan, M MacLaren, Montgomery and Strang;

(b) That it be noted that PACT had closed, that Reverend Graham Clark had resigned from the Education & Children's Services Policy Board and that, in the first instance, a replacement nominee would be sought from Renfrewshire Evangelical Alliance of Churches;

- (c) That Councillor Steel be appointed as substitute representative to the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee;
- (d) That Councillors Paterson, Campbell, Hughes, McNaughtan and Adam-McGregor be appointed as substitute representatives respectively for Councillors J Cameron, Audrey Doig, K MacLaren, M MacLaren and Steel on the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board;
- (e) That the appointment of Councillors Bibby, J Cameron, Graham, Nicolson, and Paterson to the Children's Champion Board be noted;
- (f) That the Council's nominees to each of CoSLA's four Policy Boards be as follows: Health and Social Care Board, Councillor J Cameron; Community Wellbeing Board, Councillor McGurk; Children and Young People Board, Councillor Paterson; and Environment and Economy Board, Councillor McNaughtan; and
- (g) That it be noted that Councillors Nicolson and Binks had been invited to be the Council's representatives on the FlightPath Committee.

## **11 Timetable of Meetings**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to a proposed timetable of meetings of the Council and its Boards covering the period January 2018 to June 2019 a copy of which was appended to the report.

The timetable was based on the current governance arrangements and incorporated recess periods at summer, October, Christmas/New Year and spring. Whilst meetings of the Appeals Board and Local Review Body had been included in the timetable the report intimated that there could be occasions when these meetings were not required and would be cancelled in consultation with the respective Convener. It was highlighted that an additional meeting of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board had been incorporated into the timetable on 25 September 2018 to allow the Board to consider the Council's Audited Annual Accounts.

### **DECIDED:**

- (a) That the timetable of meetings of the Council and its Boards to June 2019, including the dates during which there were to be recesses, as detailed in the appendix to the report be agreed; and
- (b) That it be agreed that meetings of the Appeals Board and Local Review Body, although timetabled, be cancelled in consultation with the respective Convener, if there was no substantive business.

## **Declaration of Interest**

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



## 12 Notice of Motion 1

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

"1820 Radicals' War

Council agrees to host events to commemorate the bi-centennial of the 1820 Radicals' War and to liaise with the 1820 Society to maximise their involvement in the commemoration."

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

Councillor Andy Doig, seconded by Councillor Mack, moved as an amendment that in addition Council further agrees in promoting such commemorative events that there should be a positive focus to illuminate the strong links which Paisley and Renfrewshire has with both the events of 1820, and the wider Scottish Radical tradition.

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors Brown and Devine, being the mover and seconder of the motion, agreed to accept the amendment and the motion, as amended, was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** Council agreed to host events to commemorate the bi-centennial of the 1820 Radicals' War and to liaise with the 1820 Society to maximise their involvement in the commemoration.

Council further agreed in promoting such commemorative events that there should be a positive focus to illuminate the strong links which Paisley and Renfrewshire had with both the events of 1820, and the wider Scottish Radical tradition.

## 13 Notice of Motion 2

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

"Tackling Period Poverty

Council notes that female hygiene products are a necessity, not a choice.

Council commends the recent North Ayrshire Council initiative to provide free sanitary products in all of their Secondary schools in a bid to stamp out period poverty. Council further notes the campaign led by Monica Lennon, MSP to introduce a Members Bill which aims to change the law in Scotland, by putting a duty on schools, colleges and universities to provide free sanitary products in their toilets.

Council accepts the need to help women and school girls who cannot currently access or afford sanitary products and will therefore take necessary action to provide free sanitary products in all Renfrewshire Primary and Secondary schools, as a first practical step to make period poverty and stigma a thing of the past;"

and Notice of Motion 17 by Councillors Don and McEwan in the following terms:

"Council welcomes Scottish Government Announcement to Provide Free Sanitary Products in Educational Establishments

Renfrewshire Council welcomes the announcement by the Scottish Government that will see the provision of free sanitary products in schools, colleges and universities.

Council recognises that female hygiene products are a necessity, not a choice and notes that many young women may be unable to buy vital feminine hygiene products due to the cost.

Council notes that whilst free products are currently available in high schools and food banks, this announcement may help to stop the shame and embarrassment caused by having to request these.

Council recognises that this is a huge step forward in eradicating period poverty."

Councillors Kennedy and Dowling and Councillors Don and McEwan, being the movers and seconders of Notices of Motion 2 and 17 respectively, agreed in terms of Standing Order 27 that both motions be combined and that, in addition, Council agrees that free sanitary products be provided in all Renfrewshire Council schools. The initial cost of installation of this service is approximately £160K per annum. This will be a first practical step to making 'period poverty' a thing of the past.

The motions as combined, together with the addition, were approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** Council noted that female hygiene products were a necessity, not a choice.

Council commended the recent North Ayrshire Council initiative to provide free sanitary products in all of their Secondary schools in a bid to stamp out period poverty. Council further noted the campaign led by Monica Lennon, MSP to introduce a Members Bill which aimed to change the law in Scotland, by putting a duty on schools, colleges and universities to provide free sanitary products in their toilets.

Council accepted the need to help women and school girls who could not currently access or afford sanitary products and would therefore take necessary action to provide free sanitary products in all Renfrewshire Primary and Secondary schools, as a first practical step to make period poverty and stigma a thing of the past.

Council welcomed the Scottish Government announcement to provide free sanitary products in educational establishments.

Renfrewshire Council welcomed the announcement by the Scottish Government that would see the provision of free sanitary products in schools, colleges and universities.

Council recognised that female hygiene products were a necessity, not a choice and noted that many young women may be unable to buy vital feminine hygiene products due to the cost.

Council noted that whilst free products were currently available in high schools and food banks, this announcement may help to stop the shame and embarrassment caused by having to request these.

Council recognised that this is a huge step forward in eradicating period poverty.

Council agreed that free sanitary products be provided in all Renfrewshire Council schools. The initial cost of installation of this service was approximately £160K per annum. This would be a first practical step to making 'period poverty' a thing of the past.

## **14 Notice of Motion 3**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Harte and McCulloch in the following terms:

"Scottish Local Government Debt Amnesty

This council notes that work done by Unite Scotland, following information obtained through Freedom of Information requests, suggests that Scottish local government, since Scottish devolution, has paid a minimum of £3.3 billion to HM Treasury in interest payments on pre-devolution debt liabilities.

This council also notes that a further £2.5 billion of pre-devolution debts are owed by Scottish local government HM Treasury's Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) at high interest rates of around 8%, at a time when interest on post-devolution debts are around 4%. For Renfrewshire, the total PWLB borrowing taken out before devolution on 1 July 1999 which is still outstanding is £107,909,451 - the average rate on this debt is 5.783%.

This council believes that the requirement for councils in Scotland, post devolution, to pay such large debts to HM Treasury at high interest rates, is unfair and recognises that the writing off of such debts would significantly reduce pressure on council budgets, potentially saving services and thousands of jobs.

This council therefore resolves to press HM Treasury to write off pre-devolution debts owed by councils in Scotland and to seek the support of the Scottish Government for this debt amnesty."

Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor McCulloch, then moved the motion.

Councillor J MacLaren, seconded by Councillor Binks, moved as an amendment that Council realises that asking HM Treasury to write-off all pre-devolution debts is totally unrealistic. This Council therefore resolves to press HM Treasury to seek to renegotiate pre-devolution debts to reduce the interest rate charged down to 4% and to seek support from the Scottish Government in this approach.

On the roll being called the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Begg, Binks, Graham, J MacLaren, McIntyre and Strang.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Bibby, Brown, Burns, J Cameron, Provost L Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Davidson, Devine, Andy Doig, Audrey Doig, Don, Dowling, Grady, Harte, Hood, Hughes, Kennedy, Mack, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, McCartin, McCulloch, McEwan, McGurk, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Shaw and Steel.

Councillor Mackay abstained.

Six members having voted for the amendment, 33 members having voted for the motion and one member having abstained, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

#### **DECIDED:** Scottish Local Government Debt Amnesty

Council noted that work done by Unite Scotland, following information obtained through Freedom of Information requests, suggested that Scottish local government, since Scottish devolution, had paid a minimum of £3.3 billion to HM Treasury in interest payments on pre-devolution debt liabilities.

Council also noted that a further £2.5 billion of pre-devolution debts were owed by Scottish local government HM Treasury's Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) at high interest rates of around 8%, at a time when interest on post-devolution debts was around 4%. For Renfrewshire, the total PWLB borrowing taken out before devolution on 1 July 1999 which was still outstanding was £107,909,451 - the average rate on this debt was 5.783%.

Council believed that the requirement for councils in Scotland, post devolution, to pay such large debts to HM Treasury at high interest rates, was unfair and recognised that the writing off of such debts would significantly reduce pressure on council budgets, potentially saving services and thousands of jobs.

Council therefore resolved to press HM Treasury to write off pre-devolution debts owed by councils in Scotland and to seek the support of the Scottish Government for this debt amnesty.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Audrey Doig and Andy Doig having previously declared an interest in the following item of business left the meeting.

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

### **15 Notice of Motion 4**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Harte and Dowling in the following terms:

"Renfrewshire Council notes the recommendations of the Barclay Review of Non-Domestic Rates.

This council further urges the Scottish Government to reject Recommendation 24 of the review, that charity relief should be reformed/restricted for a small number of recipients, as it relates to ALEOs.

Council notes that the cost of implementing this recommendation would have a detrimental effect on the Council's finances, estimated to be £1.6m."

Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Dowling, then moved the motion.

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved as an amendment that the second paragraph of the motion be deleted and replaced with "Council notes that the Cabinet Secretary for Finance has agreed to consult further with stakeholders. Council agrees to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance regarding the potential impact of Recommendation 24 on the services that ALEOs provide to local communities. Council will also seek to gain assurances that options to offset any loss of charitable relief if implemented will be part of the consultation process and deliberations".

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors Harte and Dowling, being the mover and seconder of the motion, agreed to accept the amendment and the motion as amended was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** Renfrewshire Council noted the recommendations of the Barclay Review of Non-Domestic Rates.

Council noted that the Cabinet Secretary for Finance had agreed to consult further with stakeholders. Council agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance regarding the potential impact of Recommendation 24 on the services that ALEOs provided to local communities. Council would also seek to gain assurances that options to offset any loss of charitable relief if implemented would be part of the consultation process and deliberations.

Council noted that the cost of implementing this recommendation would have a detrimental effect on the Council's finances, estimated to be £1.6m.

## **Sederunt**

Councillors Audrey Doig and Andy Doig returned to the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

## **16 Notice of Motion 5**

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

"Renfrewshire Council notes with concern, the lack of transparency and democratic accountability when procuring contracts through West Hub Scotland or any other HubCos. The lack of democratic control over procurement, community benefits, our construction charter, paying the living wage and blacklisting means that elected members cannot exercise their duty of scrutiny for the lifetime of a project.

Council therefore instructs officers to bring back regular update reports to the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board, and to produce a report for Council on the advantages and disadvantages of using HubCos and comparisons made with our own procurement process."

Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Devine, then moved the motion which was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** Council noted with concern, the lack of transparency and democratic accountability when procuring contracts through West Hub Scotland or any other HubCos. The lack of democratic control over procurement, community benefits, our construction charter, paying the living wage and blacklisting means that elected members cannot exercise their duty of scrutiny for the lifetime of a project.

Council therefore instructed officers to submit regular update reports to the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board, and to prepare and submit a report for consideration by the Council on the advantages and disadvantages of using HubCos and comparisons made with our own procurement process.

## **17 Notice of Motion 6**

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

"Council notes the success of the web casting of full meetings of Renfrewshire Council

In the interests of further transparency and public engagement Council agrees to introduce web casting of the following Boards and Committees:-

Infrastructure Land and Environment Policy Board  
Finance and Resources & Customer Service Policy Board  
Communities Housing and Planning Policy Board  
Education and Children's Services Policy Board  
Leadership Board  
Petitions Board  
Integrated Joint Board Health and Social Care  
Audit Scrutiny and Risk"

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

Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Audrey Doig, moved as an amendment that Council notes that the current cost of web casting the full Council is £16k per annum. Council also notes that the average number of views over the last 8 meetings has been 249 at a cost of £65 per viewer.

Council agrees that webcasting the full Council is of interest to the public and that it continues at its present level and agrees a review of the future of webcasting Council meetings and methods.

On the roll being called the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Begg, Binks, Burns, J Cameron, Provost L Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Andy Doig, Audrey Doig, Don, Graham, Hughes, Mack, Mackay, J MacLaren, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, McCartin, McEwan, McGurk, McIntyre, McNaughtan, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Shaw, Steel and Strang.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Bibby, Brown, Davidson, Devine, Dowling, Grady, Harte, Hood, Kennedy, McCulloch and Montgomery.

29 members having voted for the amendment and 11 members having voted for the motion, the amendment was accordingly declared carried.

**DECIDED:** Council noted that the current cost of web casting the full council was £16k per annum. Council also noted that the average number of views over the last 8 meetings had been 249, at a cost of £65 per viewer.

Council agreed that web casting the full Council was of interest to the public and that it continue at its present level and agreed to undertake a review of the future of webcasting Council meetings and methods.

## **18 Notice of Motion 7**

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

"Review the Standards Commission for Scotland

Renfrewshire Council records that it places the highest value on integrity in public life concerning the behaviour of both its elected members and employees, but notes that across all thirty-two Scottish local authorities the Standards Commission for Scotland is losing its core vision and is mired in trivia to the point of losing its credibility.

Council notes that much of this trivia currently considered actionable by the Standards Commission for Scotland is an attack on the principle of satire, which in other jurisdictions such as in the USA is classified as protected speech under the First Amendment of the US constitution.

Council highlights in particular that legal protection against libel, slander, and hate crime, exists in Scots law, and therefore calls on the Scottish Government to review the operation and remit of the Standards Commission for Scotland."

Councillor Mack, seconded by Councillor Andy Doig, then moved the motion.

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Devine, moved as an amendment that the motion be not approved.

On the roll being called the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Bibby, Binks, Brown, Burns, J Cameron, Provost L Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Davidson, Devine, Audrey Doig, Don, Dowling, Grady, Graham, Harte, Hood, Hughes, Kennedy, Mackay, J MacLaren, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, McEwan, McCulloch, McGurk, McIntyre, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Shaw, Steel and Strang.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Begg, Andy Doig and Mack.

Councillor McCartin abstained.

36 members having voted for the amendment, three members having voted for the motion and one member having abstained, the amendment was accordingly declared carried.

**DECIDED:** That the motion be not approved.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11.40 a.m. and reconvened at 11.55 a.m.

## **19 Notice of Motion 8**

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

"Urgent Repairs to the Fabric of St Charles Primary School

St Charles Primary School, Rowan Street, Paisley, requires urgent repairs to the fabric of the building, but more importantly it's surrounding environs haven't seen a scintilla of garden maintenance since it's opening in 1968 - please remedy this inexcusable dereliction of duty forthwith."

Councillor Mack, seconded by Councillor Andy Doig, then moved the motion.

Councillor Paterson, seconded by Councillor McGurk, moved as an amendment that Council recognises that priorities for a revised School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) are currently under development and will be brought to elected members at the appropriate policy board. Council notes the current condition of St Charles' Primary School is rated 'B' and was refurbished in 2008 at the cost of £3m.

On the roll being called the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Begg, Bibby, Binks, Brown, Burns, J Cameron, Provost L Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Davidson, Devine, Audrey Doig, Don, Dowling, Grady, Graham, Harte, Hood, Hughes, Kennedy, Mackay, J MacLaren, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, McCartin, McCulloch, McEwan, McGurk, McIntyre, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Shaw, Steel and Strang.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Andy Doig and Mack.

38 members having voted for the amendment and two members having voted for the motion the amendment was accordingly declared carried.



**DECIDED:** Council recognised that priorities for a revised School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) were currently under development and would be submitted for consideration by elected members at the appropriate policy board. Council noted the current condition of St Charles' Primary School was rated 'B' and had been refurbished in 2008 at the cost of £3m.

## **20 Notice of Motion 9**

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

"Sprinkler Systems Within High Rise Flats

Sprinkler Systems must be installed with immediate effect in all high rise flats within Renfrewshire Council."

Councillor Mack, seconded by Councillor Andy Doig, then moved the motion.

Councillor McGurk, seconded by Councillor Nicolson, moved as an amendment that Council agrees that the installation of fire suppression systems in 'high rise' domestic buildings could provide an additional level of fire safety and assurances for occupiers.

Council notes that there is an ongoing Scottish Government task force which is reviewing all aspects of building and fire safety regulations following the Grenfell disaster.

Council therefore agrees to work with the task force and the Scottish Government to ensure proposals regarding the installation of any fire suppression systems will meet the needs of occupiers, the fire service and building regulations as amended.

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors Mack and Andy Doig being the mover and seconder of the motion, agreed to accept the amendment which was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** Council agreed that the installation of fire suppression systems in 'high rise' domestic buildings could provide an additional level of fire safety and assurances for occupiers.

Council noted that there was an ongoing Scottish Government task force which was reviewing all aspects of building and fire safety regulations following the Grenfell disaster.

Council therefore agreed to work with the task force and the Scottish Government to ensure proposals regarding the installation of any fire suppression systems would meet the needs of occupiers, the fire service and building regulations as amended.

## **21 Notice of Motion 10**

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

"Council calls on the Scottish Government to change the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 to give Licensing Boards the power to make conditions with regard to the treatment of a licensed premise's staff so that they are safely transported home during the hours of darkness and early morning."

Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Bibby, then moved the motion which was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** Council called on the Scottish Government to change the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 to give Licensing Boards the power to make conditions with regard to the treatment of a licensed premises staff so that they were safely transported home during the hours of darkness and early morning.

## **22 Notice of Motion 11**

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

"Scottish Planning Policy states 'The system should be genuinely plan-led, with succinct development plans setting out ambitious, long-term visions for their area. They must be kept up to date, and provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a degree of certainty and efficiency.'

Council agrees that changes to the planning system has generated a culture of persistent and coordinated attempts by developers to ignore the Local Development Plan and to cherry pick prime green belt land which runs counter to the will of local democracy. This has the potential to erode confidence and belief in the Local plan as a means to manage development in a consistent and open way.

Council notes that the Scottish Government is to produce a white paper on planning following the independent review of planning. Council therefore agrees to write to the Cabinet Secretary and call on her to return power back to local Council's to determine individual sites that they consider suitable for release or not and that appeals should be heard by local review bodies not unelected Scottish Government officers."

Councillor J MacLaren, seconded by Councillor Begg, then moved the motion which was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** Council noted that Scottish Planning Policy stated 'The system should be genuinely plan-led, with succinct development plans setting out ambitious, long-term visions for their area. They must be kept up to date, and provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a degree of certainty and efficiency.'

Council agreed that changes to the planning system had generated a culture of persistent and coordinated attempts by developers to ignore the Local Development Plan and to cherry pick prime green belt land which ran counter to the will of local democracy. This had the potential to erode confidence and belief in the Local plan as a means to manage development in a consistent and open way.

Council noted that the Scottish Government was to produce a white paper on planning following the independent review of planning. Council therefore agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary and call on her to return power back to local Councils to determine individual sites that they considered suitable for release or not and that appeals should be heard by local review bodies not unelected Scottish Government officers.

## **23 Notice of Motion 12**

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

"Warning sound devices are deemed necessary by some government regulators because vehicles operating in all-electric mode produce less noise than traditional combustion engine vehicles and can make it more difficult for pedestrians, the blind, cyclists, and others, to be aware of their presence.

This council calls on the Secretary of State for Transport and the Scottish Government Minister for Transport and the Islands to introduce legislation that requires all electric and hybrid vehicles to be fitted with an Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System as approved by the European Parliament."

Councillor J MacLaren, seconded by Councillor Binks, then moved the motion which was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** Council noted that warning sound devices were deemed necessary by some government regulators because vehicles operating in all-electric mode produced less noise than traditional combustion engine vehicles and could make it more difficult for pedestrians, the blind, cyclists, and others to be aware of their presence.

Council called on the Secretary of State for Transport and the Scottish Government Minister for Transport and the Islands to introduce legislation that required all electric and hybrid vehicles to be fitted with an Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System as approved by the European Parliament.

## **24 Notice of Motion 13**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Paterson and Steel in the following terms:

"Council welcomes the Scottish Government pledge to fund research into the feasibility of a Citizen's Basic Income Scheme and agrees to take necessary steps to access funding provided to help develop and establish suitable testing within Renfrewshire."

Councillor Paterson, seconded by Councillor Steel, then moved the motion which was approved unanimously

**DECIDED:** Council welcomed the Scottish Government pledge to fund research into the feasibility of a Citizen's Basic Income Scheme and agreed to take necessary steps to access funding provided to help develop and establish suitable testing within Renfrewshire.

## **25 Notice of Motion 14**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors McGurk and McNaughtan in the following terms:

"High Hedge Notice Fee

Each Local Authority is required to set a fee for dealing with a High Hedge application. There is no upper limit on the fees to be charged but the fees should represent the reasonable costs the Local Authority incurs in processing the application. Council agrees to reduce the fee from its present level to £200 and maintains the concessionary rate at 25%. This will bring our fees in line with other local authorities regarding charging a reasonable fee and reducing the barriers for individuals who seek redress for an issue that is affordable."

Councillor McGurk, seconded by Councillor McNaughtan, then moved the motion which was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** Council noted that each Local Authority was required to set a fee for dealing with a High Hedge application. There was no upper limit on the fees to be charged but the fees should represent the reasonable costs the Local Authority incurred in processing the application. Council agreed to reduce the fee from its present level to £200 and to maintain the concessionary rate at 25%. This would bring fees in line with other local authorities regarding charging a reasonable fee and reducing the barriers for individuals who sought redress for an issue that was affordable.

## **26 Notice of Motion 15**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors McGurk and McNaughtan in the following terms:

"Council calls upon the relevant council officers to bring forward a review of the Scheme of Delegations to the December meeting of the Council. The review is to consider amending the Scheme with regard to the Planning function and delegation and specifically but not exclusively the following:

Applications to be considered by the full Board.

Any application subject of objection by a Community Council where those objections are relevant material considerations.

Any application which raises significant objections

Any application which if approved would be contrary to the development plan

The report to full Council should also consider the following change in process and it's implications.

The weekly planning list shall contain a schedule with the Planning Officer's recommendation on an application. At the end of a seven day period the recommendation will become the decision of the Planning Authority unless the Head of Planning & Housing receives from a Councillor a written objection to the recommendation outlining relevant planning reasons and requesting that the application is referred to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board for determination. Such requests must reach the Head of Planning & Housing before the deadline shown in the weekly planning list/schedule."

Councillor McGurk, seconded by Councillor McNaughtan, then moved the motion which was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** Council called upon the relevant council officers to prepare and submit a report to the December meeting of the Council in respect of a review of the Scheme of Delegations. The review is to consider amending the Scheme with regard to the Planning function and delegation and specifically but not exclusively the following:

Applications to be considered by the full board.

Any application subject to objection by a Community Council where those objections were relevant material considerations.

Any application which raised significant objections

Any application which if approved would be contrary to the development plan

The report to full Council should also consider the following change in process and the implications.

The weekly planning list shall contain a schedule with the Planning Officer's recommendation on an application. At the end of a seven day period the recommendation will become the decision of the Planning Authority unless the Head of Housing & Development receives from a Councillor a written objection to the recommendation outlining relevant planning reasons and requesting that the application is referred to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board for determination. Such requests must reach the Head of Housing & Development before the deadline shown in the weekly planning list/schedule.

## **27 Notice of Motion 16**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors McNaughtan and Rodden in the following terms:

"Electric Taxis & Private Hire Cars

Council notes that the current policy on vehicle licensing conditions precludes the use of electric vehicles as private hire cars as these vehicles would not meet the requirement for engines of 1600cc minimum size.

Council agrees to instruct officers to bring forward a comprehensive review of taxi and private hire car licensing conditions to the Regulatory Functions Board reflecting developments in electric vehicle technology; and

Council agrees, as an interim measure to encourage the licensing of electric and hybrid private hire cars, to remove the requirement for 1600cc engine size for private hire cars with immediate effect."

Councillor McNaughtan, seconded by Councillor Rodden, then moved the motion which was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** Council noted that the current policy on vehicle licensing conditions precluded the use of electric vehicles as private hire cars as these vehicles would not meet the requirement for engines of 1600cc minimum size.

Council agreed to instruct officers to submit a comprehensive review of taxi and private hire car licensing conditions to the Regulatory Functions Board reflecting developments in electric vehicle technology; and

Council agreed, as an interim measure, to encourage the licensing of electric and hybrid private hire cars, to remove the requirement for 1600cc engine size for private hire cars with immediate effect.