

Minute of Meeting

Council

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 17 December 2020	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 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 Scott Kerr, 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 Andy Steel, Councillor Jane Strang

Chair

Provost L Cameron presided.

In Attendance

S Black, Chief Executive; S Quinn, Director of Children's Services; M Crearie, Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services; G McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure; A Russell, Director of Finance & Resources; L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning, L Mahon, Head of Marketing and Communications, A Morrison, Head of Regeneration, B Walker, City Deal Project Director (for items 1 to 10 only), L Adamson, Communications & Public Affairs Manager and M Moran, Assistant Economic Development Manager (Lead Officer) (all Chief Executive's); M McCargo, Children's Services Manager (Children's Services); O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection, F Carlin, Head of Planning & Housing (for items 1 to 3(d) only) and L Muirhead, Planning & Housing Manager (for items 1 to 3(d) only) (all Communities, Housing & Planning Services); C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager (Environment & Infrastructure); K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, J Lynch, Head of Property Services, A MacArthur, Head of Finance (for items 1 to 10 only), M

Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, L Belshaw and D Low, both Democratic Services Managers and E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources); S Strachan, Interim Chief Officer, C Laverty, Head of Mental Health, Addictions and Learning Disability Services (for items 1 to 10 only), and J Dougal, Head of Head of Health & Social Care (West Renfrewshire) (for items 1 to 10 only) (all Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); and V Hollows, Chief Executive (Renfrewshire Leisure Limited).

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.

Obituary

Provost Cameron acknowledged the death of Nancy Allison, a former Renfrew District Councillor, Renfrewshire Councillor and the first Provost of Renfrewshire Council, making reference to her exemplary service to the local community. The Provost made mention of the fact that Nancy established the Provost's Community Awards in 1998 to acknowledge Renfrewshire's local heroes. Individual members of the Council paid tribute endorsing the sentiments expressed. The Provost and members of the Council extended sincere condolences to her family on behalf of Renfrewshire Council. A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect.

The Provost thanked Councillors for joining in the spirit of Christmas and for wearing festive attire during the meeting and making a donation to ACCORD Hospice, her charity of choice this year. The Provost thanked Councillor Hughes for organising the event.

Apology

Councillor Mackay.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Burns declared a financial interest in item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as both he and family members worked for another local authority Health & Social Care Partnership and 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 Andy Doig declared a financial interest in item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as he worked within the social care sector and 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 Grady declared a financial interest in item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy - as he worked within the public sector and indicated that it was his intention to leave the meeting during consideration of this item and not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Hood declared a financial interest in item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy - as his wife was an employee of the NHS and indicated that it was his intention to leave the meeting during consideration of this item and not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Harte declared a financial interest in item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy - and indicated that it was his intention to leave the meeting during consideration of this item and not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Shaw declared a financial interest in item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as his partner worked in the social care sector and 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 Audrey Doig declared a financial interest in item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as her husband worked within the social care sector and 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 Kerr declared a financial interest in item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as both he and his wife are employees of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and 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 Mylet declared a financial interest in item 18 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as his wife worked in the social care sector and indicated that it was his intention to leave the meeting during consideration of this item and not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor McCulloch declared a financial interest in item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as his siblings worked within the public sector and 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 Rodden declared a financial interest in item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as she worked within the public sector and indicated that it was her intention to leave the meeting during consideration of these items and not to not take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Campbell declared non-financial interests in item 2 of the agenda – Update on COVID-19; item 3(a) of the agenda – Recovery and Renewal Plans: Financial Update; item 3(b) of the agenda – Recovery and Renewal Plans: Renfrewshire Economic Recovery Action Plan; item 3(c) of the agenda – Recovery and Renewal Plans: Social Renewal Programme Update; item 4 of the agenda – Alcohol and Drugs Commission – Final Report; and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as she was an employee of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde but not in the Council's area and intimated that it was her intention to remain in the meeting and to take part in any discussion or voting thereon. Councillor Campbell further declared a financial interest in item 12 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy – as she was an employee of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde but not in the Council's area and intimated that it was her intention to leave the meeting during consideration of this item and not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Sharkey declared a non-financial interest in respect of item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as he considered every trade unionist in public service his brother or his sister and indicated that it was his intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of these items and to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Davidson declared a non-financial interest in item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as her daughter, who did not live in the same household as her, worked within the social care sector and indicated that it was her intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of these items and to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Hughes declared a non-financial interest in respect of item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as she had family members who worked within health, and as this did not include her husband, indicated that it was her intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of these items and to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Provost Cameron declared a non-financial interest in respect of item 12 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy - and item 18 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte - as she had family members who worked within the public sector, and as none of them lived in the same household as her, indicated that it was her intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of this item and to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Notice of Motion 6 by Councillors Andy Doig and Hood

Councillor Andy Doig, intimated that both he and Councillor Hood, as the mover and seconder of Notice of Motion 6, wished to withdraw the Notice of Motion which formed item 14 of the agenda.

1 Minutes 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, 24 September 2020
 Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel, 8 October 2020
 Special Council, 22 October 2020
 Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board, 27 October 2020
 Regulatory Functions Board, 28 October 2020
 Education & Children's Services Policy Board, 29 October 2020
 Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board, 4 November 2020
 Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board, 11 November 2020
 Regulatory Functions Board, 12 November 2020
 Local Review Body, 17 November 2020
 Special Regulatory Functions Board, 19 November 2020
 Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board, 23 November 2020
 Special Council, 26 November 2020
 Leadership Board, 2 December 2020
 Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel, 8 December 2020

DECIDED: That the Minutes be approved.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Campbell, having declared a non-financial interest in the following item of business, remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

2 Update on COVID-19

Under reference to item 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 25 June 2020, there was submitted a report by the Chief Executive providing an update in relation to the Council response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report intimated that since the last update report to the Council on 25 June 2020, service updates had been provided to the relevant policy boards on all operational and service issues that had been impacted as a result of responding to the ongoing pandemic. Cross party briefings had also been issued to elected members fortnightly covering ongoing matters in relation to the COVID-19 response, key statistics relating to the transmission of the virus, updates to policy and guidance, impact on service provision and the operational position of services.

It was noted that a report on the specific impact of the pandemic on the communities of Renfrewshire was considered at Council on 24 September 2020 and highlighted plans to support the economic and social recovery of communities as the pandemic

moved forward and ultimately was mitigated through improved and newly developed approaches to testing and vaccination.

The report detailed the number of cases and deaths within Renfrewshire and noted the position in relation to care homes; provided an overview of the current steps being taken to respond to and manage, as far as possible, the impact of the virus during the second and any subsequent waves of the virus; information on key steps being taken to mitigate and combat the effects of the virus; and outlined some of the key measures for businesses and communities, support for individuals and families who had been asked to self-isolate and the extension of furlough and business grants.

The report provided detail on Renfrewshire's pilot of the first lateral flow test community asymptomatic testing centre in Scotland, which took place in Johnstone Town Hall from 2 to 9 December 2020; the preparations being made for the roll-out of a national COVID-19 vaccination programme with the HSCP and Council working closely with Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board; the impact on local communities and businesses and the services provided by the Council and RLL when Renfrewshire was placed within the most restrictive level 4 measures; and sought delegated authority for the Chief Executive to make arrangements for the distribution of financial and welfare support funds that might be created in line with guidance provided by the Scottish Government, on behalf of the Council.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the update provided on the Council's response to the COVID-19 crisis and the associated impact in terms of local communities and service provision be noted;
- (b) That the work being undertaken by the Council to support communities and businesses in line with national guidance be acknowledged;
- (c) That the Chief Executive be authorised to make arrangements for the distribution of financial and welfare support funds that might be created in line with the guidance provided by the Scottish Government, on behalf of the Council, and to decide on how these funds were distributed; and
- (d) That it be agreed that a report on the exercise of the authority granted in paragraph 2.1 (iii) be provided to elected members at the earliest opportunity.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Campbell, having declared a non-financial interest in the items 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c), remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

3(a) General Fund Financial Update

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources providing a general fund financial update.

The report intimated that the Council's financial outlook over the relatively short period of the next two years, was subject to significantly increased uncertainty at the end of 2020 in comparison to that which existed at the beginning of 2020. In this context, the next two to three years might represent the most critical period in the financial history

of the Council and it was a necessity that the Council was highly focused on re-mobilising and driving forward the Right for Renfrewshire transformation programme once freed from COVID-19 demands in order to deliver the targeted £25 million of savings. This was critical to provide confidence that the Council would be positioned to secure the financial sustainability of priority services.

The report noted that it had become increasingly clearer that there was growing collateral damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to the economic and fiscal position of the UK and Scotland, resulting in the largest economic slump in 300 years, and ultimately the uncertain impact this would have on future public spending.

The report provided an update in relation to the COVID-19 impact in 2020/21; an updated outlook for 2021/22 to 2022/23; government grant; future pay settlements; Right for Renfrewshire; the updated financial outlook for 2021/23; the planned use of financial flexibility and criticality of the Right for Renfrewshire programme; revenue investment capacity; and the capital investment programme.

The report indicated that capital investment plans for housing and general services for 2020/21 to 2023/24, which included investment totalling £368 million, had been approved at the meeting of the Council held on 9 March 2020. In the current financial year, it had been planned that spend of £130 million of investment would take place. The short-term cessation of construction sites and requirements for re-opening continued to impact on the Council's capital plan over 2020/21 and potentially over the medium-term. Consultation had taken place with active contractors to seek early engagement to achieve mutually agreeable adjustments to contract arrangements and avoid potentially expensive, disruptive and protracted legal disputes. It was noted that the immediate financial impact of COVID-19 had exposed the Council's investment programme to circa £5 million to £6 million of additional cost spread equally across the General Fund investment programme and the Housing investment programme. The Housing Revenue Account debt management arrangements had sufficient flexibility to accommodate the impact of this level of cost exposure without unduly disrupting the revenue or capital programme and the report proposed that appropriate adjustments were made as part of the Housing financial planning arrangements looking ahead to the 2021/22 budget.

It was noted that in relation to the General Fund investment programme, £2.5 million of resource capacity had been identified to provide financial coverage to manage these additional COVID-19 cost exposures, in addition to the associated contingencies within existing projects, and these were detailed in section 5 of the report.

DECIDED:

- (i) That the update provided in the report be noted;
- (ii) That it be noted that the next update was anticipated to form part of the budget report to Council based on the planned announcement of the Scottish Government budget and local government financial settlement on 28 January 2021; and
- (iii) That the adjustments to the capital planning arrangements, as outlined in section 5 of the report, be agreed.

3(b) Renfrewshire Economic Recovery Plan

Under reference to item 4 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 24 September 2020, there was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Economic Recovery Plan for Renfrewshire for the period December 2020 to December 2022, which had been prepared in conjunction with, and approved by, Renfrewshire's Economic Leadership Panel. A copy of the Plan formed Appendix 1 to the report.

The Panel had commended the Plan to the Council for endorsement and it was noted that the Plan's success was dependent on the continued support and contributions of a wide variety of local partners, many of whom would lead on specific elements of the Plan's delivery. A detailed Action Plan with specific economic targets would follow in early 2021.

The Plan took its lead from the Scottish Government's approach to economic recovery but focused on the actions that would make the biggest difference in the local context. It was intended to build on, rather than replace, the existing Renfrewshire Economic Strategy and progress would be reviewed on a six-monthly basis by the Council's Leadership Board.

The report noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on the UK, Scottish and Renfrewshire economies. This had affected most economic sectors and Appendix 2 to the report offered an updated overview of the UK, Scottish and Renfrewshire economic context from that presented in the September 2020 report. Appendix 3 to the report provided a summary of the draft equivalent Plan for the Glasgow City Region.

DECIDED:

- (i) That the Council endorse the Renfrewshire Economic Plan (December 2020) as recommended to them by the Renfrewshire Economic Panel;
- (ii) That it be agreed that regular updates on delivery of the Plan would be brought back to the Council's Leadership Board over the next two years; and
- (iii) That it be agreed that the Plan provided the basis for continued dialogue with Scottish Government and their agencies on a specific case for supporting a Renfrewshire economic recovery.

3(c) Impact of COVID-19 on Renfrewshire's Communities - Social Renewal Plan

Under reference to item 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 24 September 2020, there was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the development of the Social Renewal Plan for Renfrewshire, which would recognise the significant inequalities that existed in Renfrewshire and setting out joint plans to address these in light of COVID-19.

The report intimated that to support the development of the Plan, and to develop a deeper understanding of COVID-19 on local people and communities, partners had commenced a community impact assessment and had worked to assess the data available on the local and national impact of COVID-19, with a particular initial focus on income and employment, financial insecurity, community support and health and wellbeing and summarised the initial data in relation to these key areas.

It was noted that further work was required in terms of assessing the particular impact of the pandemic on specific groups including carers, young people, people from a black and minority ethnic background and women and this would be progressed through various listening events in December 2020 and January 2021. More detailed analysis of the key issues being experienced would also be available through the findings of the Public Services Panel survey recently distributed to 1,500 local people. The panel findings would also be used to inform discussions at a community level through the Local Partnership meetings scheduled in February 2021.

Work would continue to gather and analyse available data and community feedback on the impact of the pandemic in Renfrewshire and this would inform the final draft of the Social Renewal Plan for Renfrewshire by March 2021, which would be fully aligned to the Economic Recovery Plan considered at item 3(b) of this Minute.

DECIDED:

(i) That the progress that had been achieved in terms of assessing the impact of COVID-19 on local people and communities to date be noted; and

(ii) That the emerging issues which had been identified by partners through this initial programme of work be noted.

3(d) Housing-led Regeneration and Renewal Programme for Renfrewshire

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Directors of Communities, Housing & Planning Services and Finance & Resources outlining proposals for a programme of investment in housing-led regeneration and renewal in Renfrewshire.

The report intimated that this programme would not only enhance the Council's housing stock but would also contribute to the wider transformation of Renfrewshire as a place and would be central to the economic and social recovery of Renfrewshire. The investment programme would bring forward additional investment of at least £100 million over the next 10 years to deliver modern, high-quality, energy-efficient, affordable housing.

The report sought authority to progress a 10-year investment in Council housing which would involve enhanced investment in existing households, including works to the external fabric of properties and environmental improvements, as well as the construction of new Council housing. The programme would be taken forward as a key council priority, having regard to the wider context and socio-economic context of each of the areas identified and be designed to ensure maximum benefit for local communities and Council-wide services.

The first phase of investment would be targeted to around 1,100 Council homes located in eight areas as detailed in paragraph 4.11 of the report. Comprehensive regeneration place plans would be developed, individually tailored to each area, and subject to a process of consultation and engagement with local communities, tenants, residents and owners. Initial assessment of the eight areas had indicated that the regeneration proposals would include a mix of improvements and retention of existing housing, some demolition, and investment in around 300 new-build Council homes.

Further areas for regeneration and renewal investment had been identified and proposals would be brought forward for housing in these areas as a second phase of the overall 10-year programme.

DECIDED:

(i) That the Council agree to a 10-year programme of investment in improvements and regeneration of Council housing as set out in this report;

(ii) That the investment of some £86 million in the comprehensive regeneration and improvement of the Council's housing stock, including around 300 new homes be approved and that it be noted that this constituted around £29 million from existing financial plans and around £57 million from the new financial additional investment capacity identified in the long-term business plan;

(iii) That the Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services be authorised to put in place the necessary arrangements and resources for the planning and delivery of this investment, with future reports being brought forward to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board;

(iv) That it be noted that the first phase of this regeneration programme would focus on eight areas as set out in the report and that work would continue on scoping future phases of housing regeneration which would be reported to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board;

(v) That it be noted that this programme of investment would contribute to the achievement of climate change targets by significantly improving the energy efficiency programme of the homes within the regeneration areas; and

(vi) That a funding proposal, to support the proposed demonstration project, as outlined in section 5 of this report, be presented to the Climate Change Sub-committee for consideration.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Campbell, having declared a non-financial interest in the following item of business, remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

4 Final Report of Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the final report of the Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission, a copy of which was appended to the report.

The report intimated that the Renfrewshire Community Planning Executive Group had agreed to establish an Alcohol and Drugs Commission in 2018. The Commission comprised a range of local and national experts and met for the first time in March 2019 undertaking an extensive programme of engagement and evidence gathering which involved over 300 local people and groups. The final stage of the Commission's work had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resumed in late August 2020.

The covering report provided a summary of the work programme undertaken by the Commission and provided an overview of key findings and recommendations which had been endorsed by the Renfrewshire Community Planning Executive Group at a meeting held on 25 November 2020.

There were 27 recommendations in the Commission's report which provided clear direction to community planning partners on the action that must be taken to fundamentally address the impact of alcohol and drug use in Renfrewshire.

In recognition of the work of the Commission during 2019, and ahead of the planned publication of the Commission's report in Spring 2020, £2 million had been allocated to support its recommendations in the Council budget approved on 9 March 2020. Funding proposals which recommended the initial allocation of £1.34 million were set out in section 6 of the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That Council welcomed the findings and recommendations of the Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission, as set out in the Commission's final report attached at Appendix 1, and commended the contribution of the Commission members, frontline staff, partners and local people and communities to this process;

(b) That the funding proposals, set out in section 6 of the report, to allocate £1.34 million of the £2 million funding agreed by Council in March 2020 be agreed, with these proposals forming the Council's initial response to the Commission's findings;

(c) That it be noted that the Commission's report and funding proposals, detailed in section 6 of this report, would be presented to the Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board on 29 January 2021 to gain formal support for the implementation of the proposed partnership response to the Commission's findings; and

(d) That it be noted that a detailed action plan on the Commission's findings and recommendations would be submitted to the Leadership Board in February 2021, with further funding proposals also submitted at that time.

5 A Prudential Framework for Capital Finance - Progress Report

Under reference to item 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 9 March 2020, there was submitted a progress report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the Council's prudential indicators for 2020/21 as at 16 October 2020, approximately halfway through the financial year.

The report outlined the key objectives of the Prudential Code, detailed the Renfrewshire position as at 16 October 2020 and intimated that total capital expenditure was £20.443 million, of which £17.711 million related to Non-housing and £2.732 million related to Housing. A review of the updated capital spending plan for 2020/21 suggested that the indicators required to be revised for the current year, the details of which were contained within the report. It was highlighted that indicators for 2021/22 and 2022/23 would be reviewed in March 2021, alongside the budget proposals.

The report set out the proposed net decrease of £39.761 million in the planned Non-housing capital expenditure during 2020/21 and the factors which had contributed to this decrease; the factors considered in relation to the proposed decrease of £13.507 million in the planned Housing capital expenditure; outlined proposed revisions to the capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators and the indicators for affordability; and detailed the position in relation to external debt indicators and loan fund advances.

DECIDED: That the changes to the prudential indicators, as detailed in the report, be approved.

6 Governance Arrangements until 4 March 2021

Under reference to item 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 24 September 2020 and item 5 of the Minute of the special meeting of the Council held on 26 November 2020, there was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources seeking approval for arrangements for the next cycle of Board meetings up to and including the next full Council meeting on 4 March 2021 and providing an update on the acquisition of a system that would enable live-streamed hybrid meetings to take place, once restrictions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic had been eased.

The report intimated that at meetings on 25 June and 24 September 2020, the Council had approved governance arrangements over the summer of 2020 and for the last two cycles of Board meetings. The arrangements set out in this report aimed to allow the next cycle of Board meetings to take place as efficiently as possible in the current circumstances as well as enabling the Council to continue to respond to any urgent issues arising from the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

The dates for meetings of the Council and Boards from October 2020 to June 2021 had been approved by Council on 26 September 2019. The dates for meetings during the January to March 2021 Board cycle remained in place as scheduled and the report proposed that, subject to paragraph 4.7 of the report, these take place remotely using video and audio links with the same arrangements as previously approved for the last cycle of meetings.

The report intimated that a system which would allow hybrid meetings to take place had been purchased from Public-I, the same company which currently provided web-casting services to the Council. It was anticipated that the system would be installed in mid-January 2021 and would allow for meetings to be streamed live. It was hoped that testing of the system, with elected member involvement, could place in late January 2021. However, it was not anticipated that the system would be available for use for a hybrid meeting at a Board or Council meeting in the next cycle, even if guidance permitted such a meeting to take place.

The report also proposed that the revised remit and extended membership of the Emergencies Board would continue although no meetings had been programmed at this time. Should any matters relating to COVID-19 require urgent decisions to be taken, that could not wait until the next relevant Board or Council meeting, the Emergencies Board could be reconvened quickly.

The arrangements for future Council and Board meetings would continue to be reviewed and would be the subject of a further report to Council on 4 March 2021.

The report indicated that at its special meeting on 26 November 2020, the Council appointed Councillor Graham as a member of the Licensing Board, replacing Councillor Kerr. Councillor Graham had advised that he was no longer able to take up that appointment and it was proposed that Councillor McIntyre be appointed to the Licensing Board in his place. In addition, it was proposed that Councillor Graham replace Councillor Strang as a member of the Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board.

DECIDED:

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

(b) That the acquisition of a system that enabled hybrid meetings to take place and for those meetings to be live-streamed be noted;

(c) That it be noted that the arrangements for subsequent Board cycles would be the subject of a report to Council on 4 March 2021;

(d) That the temporary changes to the membership and remit of the Emergencies Board approved by Council on 25 June 2020 be continued; and

(e) That Councillor McIntyre be appointed to the Licensing Board in place of Councillor Graham and that Councillor Graham be appointed to the Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board in place of Councillor Strang.

7 Standards Commission for Scotland: Decision of the Hearing Panel of the Commission

There was submitted a report by the Head of Corporate Governance as Monitoring Officer relative to the outcome of the Standards Commission for Scotland Hearing into two complaints made to the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland. The complaints alleged that Councillor Mack had contravened the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

The report indicated that the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland had conducted an investigation into the complaints and had concluded that Councillor Mack had contravened the Code and subsequently submitted reports to the Standards Commission for Scotland on the outcome of her investigations. The Commission, following receipt of the Commissioner's reports, had held a hearing on 10 September 2020 in relation to the complaints and issued an oral decision that Councillor Mack had breached paragraphs 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and paragraphs 2 and 20 of Annex C of the Code. As Councillor Mack had not been present at the hearing, he was sent a copy of the decision and was invited to submit any comments in respect of mitigation within five working days, before the Panel would then reach a decision on the sanction to be applied. Councillor Mack did not provide any comments in respect of mitigation or the sanction to be applied.

The decision of the Hearing Panel was to disqualify Councillor Mack for a period of 17 months, from being, or from being nominated for election as, or from being elected, a Councillor, with effect from 1 October 2020. Councillor Mack had submitted an appeal to the Sheriff Principal challenging both the decision of the Commission that he had breached the Code and the sanction imposed. No date had been fixed for this appeal to be heard in Court. Despite the appeal being lodged, the sanction imposed by the Standards Commission remained in place while the appeal had still to be determined.

The report highlighted that training on governance, which included the Councillors' Code of Conduct, had been, and would continue to be, provided to members as part of their training and development programme and that individual members could seek advice from the Head of Corporate Governance on any issues arising from the Code.

DECIDED:

(a) That, in accordance with the terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000, the findings of the Standards Commission on the complaints against Councillor Mack be noted; and

(b) That it be noted that Councillor Mack had submitted an appeal against the findings of the Commission and the sanction imposed on him and that the appeal had still to be determined.

8 Audit Risk and Scrutiny Board Review - Conversion of Grassed Areas to Parking

Under reference to item 16 of the Minute of the meeting of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board held on 23 November 2020, there was submitted a report by the Lead Officer relative to the Board's review of the conversion of grassed areas to parking.

The report intimated that the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board, as part of the annual programme of activity for 2018/19, had considered the subject of conversion of grassed areas to open spaces with Council officers providing information on the relevant services they were responsible for delivering.

At the meeting of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board held on 23 November 2020, the Board agreed the final report which summarised the evidence, findings and recommendations of the review and agreed that it be submitted to a future meeting of the Council for consideration.

Councillor Binks, seconded by Councillor Begg, moved that the findings of the final report on the review of conversion of grassed areas to parking, approved at the meeting of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board held on 23 November 2020, be noted and that the key recommendations contained therein be approved.

Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor McCartin, moved as an amendment that Council remit the matter back to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Bibby, Brown, Davidson, Devine, Andy Doig, Dowling, Grady, Harte, Hood, Kennedy, McCartin, McCulloch, Montgomery, Sharkey, and Sheridan.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Begg, Binks, Burns, J Cameron, Provost Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Audrey Doig, Don, Graham, Hughes, Kerr, James MacLaren, Kenny MacLaren, Mags MacLaren, McEwan, McGurk, McIntyre, McNaughtan, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Shaw, Steel, and Strang.

15 members having voted for the amendment and 26 members having voted for the motion, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: That the findings of the final report on the review of conversion of grassed areas to parking, approved at the meeting of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board held on 23 November 2020, be noted and that the key recommendations contained therein be approved.

Additional Item

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Hood intimated that he had submitted an emergency motion, seconded by Councillor Devine, which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting and requested that this be taken as an additional item. In terms of Standing Order 14(b), Provost Cameron ruled that the emergency motion by Councillors Hood and Devine be considered by the Council as a matter of urgency in order to ensure that the necessary arrangements could be made timeously. The emergency motion would be taken up as an additional item of business at the end of the meeting.

9 Notice of Motion 1 by Councillors McCartin and Grady

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

"Council recognises that new child and adolescent mental health waiting times statistics for April to June 2020 show a record 1,520 children waiting more than a year for treatment.

Council further recognises that the Scottish Government's old strategy already wasn't working, because three years in, it has led to record numbers of children waiting over a year for the help they need.

Council demands therefore that the Scottish government brings forward a recovery plan to meet existing and heightened demand for CAMHS services, including immediate new steps to seriously expand the workforce."

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

DECIDED: Council recognises that new child and adolescent mental health waiting times statistics for April to June 2020 show a record 1,520 children waiting more than a year for treatment.

Council further recognises that the Scottish Government's old strategy already wasn't working, because three years in, it had led to record numbers of children waiting over a year for the help they need.

Council demands therefore that the Scottish government brings forward a recovery plan to meet existing and heightened demand for CAMHS services, including immediate new steps to seriously expand the workforce.

10 Notice of Motion 2 by Councillors Harte and Devine

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

"Right for Renfrewshire

Council agrees that the Council's change and transformation programme, "Right for Renfrewshire" reports, will, from now on, go to future full Council meetings.

That this administration explains why a real term cut to local authority funding is a fair deal."

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

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved as an amendment that:

"Council notes the remit of the Leadership board:

To provide oversight, leadership, and development of the public service reform agenda in Renfrewshire

To approve and oversee the procedures for examining the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of all council services.

To oversee the council's management systems for all aspects of service delivery including best value and quality systems

Also notes that all reports are subject to detailed scrutiny and considered discussion by its members which are the cross-party political leadership of the Council.

Council therefore agrees that the Leadership Board remains as the appropriate forum for the change and transformation programme and that member briefings be implemented for all members of the Council prior to any future reports being submitted to the Leadership Board."

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Burns, J Cameron, Provost Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Andy Doig, Audrey Doig, Don, Hughes, Kenny MacLaren, Mags MacLaren, McCartin, McEwan, McGurk, McNaughtan, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Shaw and Steel.

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

21 members having voted for the amendment and 20 members having voted for the motion, the amendment was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: Council notes the remit of the Leadership board:

To provide oversight, leadership, and development of the public service reform agenda in Renfrewshire

To approve and oversee the procedures for examining the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of all council services.

To oversee the council's management systems for all aspects of service delivery including best value and quality systems

Also notes that all reports are subject to detailed scrutiny and considered discussion by its members which are the cross-party political leadership of the Council.

Council therefore agrees that the Leadership board remains as the appropriate forum for the change and transformation programme and that member briefings be implemented for all members of the council prior to any future reports being submitted to the Leadership board.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11.15 am and reconvened at 11.30 am.

11 Notice of Motion 3 by Councillors Andy Doig and Steel

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

"Scottish Stage Race Winner and Promotion of Cycling for Schools

This Council congratulates Mr Tao Geoghegan Hart on being the first Scottish cyclist to win a major European stage race, with his outstanding victory in the Italian national stage race, the Giro d'Italia, earlier this year.

Council recognises both the physical and mental health benefits of Page 4 of 184 11/12/2020 cycling in all its forms, both recreational, utilitarian, and sporting pursuits. Council therefore resolves to have a renewed focus to promote cycling as part of the PE curriculum in Renfrewshire's schools, and to investigate options for our schools using the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow."

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

Councillor James MacLaren, seconded by Councillor Kerr, moved as amendment that in addition:

“Council also congratulates Lusia Steele who lives in Renfrewshire for getting a podium place in the Women’s Team Sprint at the recent European Track Championships in Bulgaria. Lusia currently coaches the Johnstone Jets cycling club for children at Linwood and was an apprentice with Renfrewshire Leisure before joining the GB programme.

Sport Scotland recently published on their website that their Cycling Facilities Fund aims to support cycling facility projects across Scotland and welcomes proposals from all areas through an £8M grant fund.

Given Lusia’s success and those of other local cyclists, council is urged to bring forward their plans for a 1km closed road cycle circuit at the ON-X Sports Centre, Linwood that got approval at the Leadership Board in September 2019 and to submit a report to the next Council Board or appropriate body with detailed progress.”

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

DECIDED: Scottish Stage Race Winner and Promotion of Cycling for Schools

This Council congratulates Mr Tao Geoghegan Hart on being the first Scottish cyclist to win a major European stage race, with his outstanding victory in the Italian national stage race, the Giro d’Italia, earlier this year.

Council recognises both the physical and mental health benefits of Page 4 of 184 11/12/2020 cycling in all its forms, both recreational, utilitarian, and sporting pursuits. Council therefore resolves to have a renewed focus to promote cycling as part of the PE curriculum in Renfrewshire’s schools, and to investigate options for our schools using the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow.

Council also congratulates Lusia Steele who lives in Renfrewshire for getting a podium place in the Women’s Team Sprint at the recent European Track Championships in Bulgaria. Lusia currently coaches the Johnstone Jets cycling club for children at Linwood and was an apprentice with Renfrewshire Leisure before joining the GB programme.

Sport Scotland recently published on their website that their Cycling Facilities Fund aims to support cycling facility projects across Scotland and welcomes proposals from all areas through an £8M grant fund.

Given Lusia’s success and those of other local cyclists, council is urged to bring forward their plans for a 1km closed road cycle circuit at the ON-X Sports Centre, Linwood that got approval at the Leadership Board in September 2019 and to submit a report to the next Council Board or appropriate body with detailed progress.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Burns, Andy Doig, Campbell, Grady, Hood, Harte, Shaw, Audrey Doig, Kerr, McCulloch and Rodden, having declared financial interests in the following item of business, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Provost Cameron and Councillors Davidson and Hughes, having declared non-financial interests in the following item of business, remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Sharkey, having declared a non-financial interest in the following item of business, remained in the meeting.

12 Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Harte and Kennedy

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

"Kate Forbes' statement

Council welcomes Kate Forbes' statement that the Scottish Government will not impose a 'Tory pay freeze' on public sector workers in Scotland. The council will write to the Scottish Government urging them to make sure that the next pay offer is substantial and meaningful."

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

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved as an amendment that the motion be amended to read:

"Kate Forbes' statement

Council welcomes Kate Forbes' statement that the Scottish Government will not impose a 'Tory pay freeze' on public sector workers in Scotland.

Council notes that pay agreements in local government are negotiated directly by Local Government with trade unions through national arrangements.

This Council supports the continuing cross party work of COSLA in lobbying for a fair settlement for local government, this is the key agreed mechanism for engagement with the Scottish Government to secure an improved financial settlement which would support councils as employers in pay negotiations."

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors Sharkey and Kennedy, being the mover and seconder of the motion accepted the addition to the motion, subject to the words "substantial and meaningful" being added after "improved financial settlement".

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Graham, moved as an amendment that:

"Council acknowledges that NHS staff and public sector employees earning less than £24,000pa will receive a pay increase. (England)

Council recognises that we are in the midst of a global pandemic which is both an unprecedented public health crisis and an economic crisis.

Many businesses have been forced to close while others face severe operating restrictions.

Millions of workers in the private sector have been furloughed, with 80% of their wages being paid by the UK Government.

Thousands of workers are being made unemployed with many more facing job insecurity.

The pandemic response has required a huge increase in government spending while necessary public health restrictions have closed large parts of the economy and heavily eroded tax revenues. This has massively increased government borrowing, estimated to be in excess of £400 billion, a level not seen outside of war time.

This Council recognises this level of spending is not sustainable beyond our current emergency and recognises the need to repair the public finances going forward."

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

The following members voted for the motion, as amended: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Bibby, Brown, J Cameron, Provost Cameron, Councillors Davidson, Devine, Don, Dowling, Hughes, Kennedy, Kenny MacLaren, Mags MacLaren, McCartin, McEwan, McGurk, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Sharkey, Sheridan, and Steel.

6 members having voted for the amendment and 24 members having voted for the motion, the motion, as amended, was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: Kate Forbes' statement

Council welcomes Kate Forbes' statement that the Scottish Government will not impose a 'Tory pay freeze' on public sector workers in Scotland.

Council notes that pay agreements in local government are negotiated directly by Local Government with trade unions through national arrangements.

This Council supports the continuing cross party work of COSLA in lobbying for a fair settlement for local government, this is the key agreed mechanism for engagement with the Scottish Government to secure an improved financial settlement, substantial and meaningful, which would support councils as employers in pay negotiations.

Sederunt

Councillors Burns, Andy Doig, Campbell, Grady, Hood, Harte, Shaw, Audrey Doig, Kerr, McCulloch and Rodden re-joined the meeting at this point.

13 Notice of Motion 5 by Councillors Audrey Doig and Don

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

"This Council reaffirms its position that no fox hunting activities will occur or be allowed to occur on any land or property that is owned or managed by Renfrewshire Council."

Councillor Audrey Doig, seconded by Councillor Don, then moved the motion.

Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Grady, moved as an amendment that in addition:

“This council writes to the Rural affairs Minister Mairi Gougeon MSP for an update on her proposed changes to legislation on Fox Hunting.

Council also calls upon her to act immediately to put an end to all forms of Fox Hunting.”

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

DECIDED: This Council reaffirms its position that no fox hunting activities will occur or be allowed to occur on any land or property that is owned or managed by Renfrewshire Council.

This council writes to the Rural affairs Minister Mairi Gougeon MSP for an update on her proposed changes to legislation on Fox Hunting.

Council also calls upon her to act immediately to put an end to all forms of Fox Hunting.

14 Notice of Motion 6 by Councillors Andy Doig and Hood

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Andy Doig and Hood which was withdrawn in terms of Standing Order 27.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the notice of motion had been withdrawn.

15 Notice of Motion 7 by Councillors Sheridan and Hood

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

"Use of Fireworks

That this Council seeks a review of existing legislation surrounding the sale and use of fireworks so that the legislation recognises the enjoyment factor of public firework displays which should be advertised in advance, promoting a public awareness campaign regarding the negative impact on animal welfare and vulnerable people and licensing traders to minimise the noise levels of fireworks sold to the public for private displays."

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

DECIDED: Use of Fireworks

That this Council seeks a review of existing legislation surrounding the sale and use of fireworks so that the legislation recognises the enjoyment factor of public firework displays which should be advertised in advance, promoting a public awareness campaign regarding the negative impact on animal welfare and vulnerable people and licensing traders to minimise the noise levels of fireworks sold to the public for private displays.

16 Notice of Motion 8 by Councillor K MacLaren and Councillor M MacLaren

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

"Well Street Bus Stops

Further to the unanimous decision of council on 5th December 2019, Council instructs council officers to re-instate two bus stops located at Page 5 of 184 11/12/2020 the top of Well Street, Paisley to their original location (prior to their removal by SPT). Council further instructs council officers to approach SPT in order to recoup the full costs of this relocation."

Councillor Kenny MacLaren, seconded by Councillor Mags MacLaren, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Well Street Bus Stops

Further to the unanimous decision of council on 5th December 2019, Council instructs council officers to re-instate two bus stops located at Page 5 of 184 11/12/2020 the top of Well Street, Paisley to their original location (prior to their removal by SPT). Council further instructs council officers to approach SPT in order to recoup the full costs of this relocation.

17 Notice of Motion 9 by Councillors Begg and Kerr

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

"Notes this Council on Thursday 26 November at its Special Meeting approved the Audited Annual Accounts for 2019-20 unopposed.

Recognises that on page 10 of the Auditor's Report our Councillors were advised that financial challenges and difficult decisions lay ahead due to Covid-19.

Notes that on Page 28 of that same report we saw that the impact of the pandemic had cost us £21 million in Renfrewshire, yet we have only received £15 million of Covid relief from the SNP Government in Edinburgh which has resulted in our £6 million shortfall.

Congratulates our council officers on balancing the pre-Covid budget which delivered services to our electors and ratepayers. We call on Renfrewshire Council not to be

short-changed so our financial challenges and difficult decisions are eased as we recover from the Covid pandemic.

Notes the recent Fraser of Allander report that highlighted that the SNP have yet to formally allocate £1 billion of funding they've received from the UK Government and moves that Renfrewshire Council ask the SNP Government to urgently give the council the money they require to support our communities, businesses and people who have been affected in relation to Covid-19."

Councillor Begg, seconded by Councillor Kerr, then moved the motion.

Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved as an amendment that:

"Council notes the current financial position of the council with regards to the impact of Covid expressed in regular updates and reports provided to elected members by the Head of finance.

Council also notes that the Fraser of Allander report states 'The Autumn Budget Revision set out how £6bn of Covid-related consequential are formally allocated, leaving £500m formally unallocated. 'Up to £700m can be placed in the Scotland Reserve and drawn down in future years. However, under current rules only £250m can be drawn down from the Reserve in any single year, and thus the scope for transferring significant sums from 2020/21 in 2021/22 is quite limited. The Scottish Government may seek greater flexibilities from HM Treasury in how the Reserve can be used.

Council agrees that Renfrewshire Council continues to support the cross party work of COSLA to push the Scottish Government to fully fund all covid-19 related costs which were expended in fighting a national pandemic and that HM Treasury be called upon to respond positively to the request for greater financial flexibility from the finance Minister which will allow funding to be released during this health crisis."

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Burns, J Cameron, Provost Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Andy Doig, Audrey Doig, Don, Hughes, Kenny MacLaren, Mags MacLaren, McCartin, McEwan, McGurk, McNaughtan, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Shaw, and Steel.

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

21 members having voted for the amendment and 20 members having voted for the motion, the amendment was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: Council notes the current financial position of the council with regards to the impact of Covid expressed in regular updates and reports provided to elected members by the Head of finance.

Council also notes that the Fraser of Allander report states 'The Autumn Budget Revision set out how £6bn of Covid-related consequential are formally allocated, leaving £500m formally unallocated. 'Up to £700m can be placed in the Scotland Reserve and drawn down in future years. However, under current rules only £250m can be drawn down from the Reserve in any single year, and thus the scope for transferring significant sums from 2020/21 in 2021/22 is quite limited. The Scottish

Government may seek greater flexibilities from HM Treasury in how the Reserve can be used.

Council agrees that Renfrewshire Council continues to support the cross party work of COSLA to push the Scottish Government to fully fund all covid-19 related costs which were expended in fighting a national pandemic and that HM Treasury be called upon to respond positively to the request for greater financial flexibility from the finance Minister which will allow funding to be released during this health crisis.

Order of Business

In terms of Standing Order 16, Provost Cameron intimated that she proposed that the additional item in relation to the emergency motion submitted by Councillors Hood and Devine would be considered prior to item 18 of the agenda.

18 Emergency Motion by Councillors Hood and Devine

There was submitted an Emergency Motion by Councillor Hood and Devine in the following terms:

“This Council is saddened by the news of the impending closure of the Capability Scotland facility Corseford Short Breaks, in Johnstone. The provision of respite care is crucial to both the users of the service and their carers, and it’s importance has never been more evident than in the last nine months.

Renfrewshire Council must, immediately, enter into discussions with Capability Scotland to address the funding issues which appear to have led to the decision in regard to Corseford, talks, which must be aimed at protecting the current level of service in the short term whilst a long term solution is secured.

Council also agrees than any considerations of the future short and long term solutions, must include bringing the service in-house.”

Councillor Paterson, seconded by Councillor J Cameron, moved as an amendment that the second paragraph of the emergency motion be amended to read:

“Renfrewshire Council recognises that this is a national resource and must, immediately, enter into discussions with Capability Scotland and encourage all other relevant stakeholders do likewise to address the funding issues which appear to have led to the decision in regard to Corseford, talks, which must be aimed at protecting the current level of service in the short term whilst a long term solution is secured.”

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors Hood and Devine, being the mover and seconder of the emergency motion accepted the amendment. The emergency motion, as amended, was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: This Council is saddened by the news of the impending closure of the Capability Scotland facility Corseford Short Breaks, in Johnstone. The provision of respite care is crucial to both the users of the service and their carers, and its importance has never been more evident than in the last nine months.

Renfrewshire Council recognises that this is a national resource and must, immediately, enter into discussions with Capability Scotland and encourage all other

relevant stakeholders do likewise to address the funding issues which appear to have led to the decision in regard to Corseford, talks, which must be aimed at protecting the current level of service in the short term whilst a long term solution is secured.

Council also agrees than any considerations of the future short and long term solutions, must include bringing the service in-house.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Burns, Andy Doig, Shaw, Audrey Doig, Kerr, Mylet, McCulloch and Rodden, having declared financial interests in the following item of business, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Provost Cameron and Councillors Campbell, Davidson, Hughes and Sharkey, having declared non-financial interests in the following item of business, remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

19 Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Sheridan and Harte

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

"£500 bonus for NHS and Social Care Workers

Council welcomes the £500 bonus for NHS and social care workers that has been announced by the Scottish Government. Council also recognises the vital work carried out by our own front line employees during the pandemic, and will look to adopt a similar approach as soon as is practicable."

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

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Graham, moved as a first amendment that:

"Council welcomes the £500 bonus for NHS and social care workers that has been announced by the Scottish Government.

Council also welcomes the announcements from Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Asda and other supermarkets to refund the business rates relief they received during the pandemic.

Council agrees to write to the Scottish Government and request that any business rates refunded within the Council area be retained in Renfrewshire and used to support:

1. Local businesses that still face ongoing trading restrictions.
2. Our own front-line employees working in the response to the pandemic."

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved as a second amendment that:

"Council welcomes the £500 bonus for NHS and social care workers that has been announced by the Scottish Government.

Council notes the cross-party position and work of COSLA in calling for an extension of the £500 bonus to key workers within Local Government and supports COSLA in that work.

Council further notes and agrees with the statement from the SJC trade Unions Unite, GMB and Unison that "Whilst we welcome the Scottish Government's announcement of a £500 'bonus' for staff in health and social care we believe this payment should be extended to the many other public service workers, many across Local Government, involved in responding to the Covid pandemic".

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors Sheridan and Harte, being the mover and seconder of the motion accepted the wording in the second amendment as the motion.

There remained the first amendment and the motion as amended.

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

The following members voted for the motion, as amended: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Bibby, Brown, J Cameron, Provost Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Davidson, Devine, Don, Dowling, Grady, Harte, Hood, Hughes, Kennedy, Kenny MacLaren, Mags MacLaren, McCartin, McEwan, McGurk, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Nicolson, Paterson, Sharkey, Sheridan, and Steel.

6 members having voted for the amendment and 27 members having voted for the motion, the motion, as amended, was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: Council welcomes the £500 bonus for NHS and social care workers that has been announced by the Scottish Government.

Council notes the cross-party position and work of COSLA in calling for an extension of the £500 bonus to key workers within Local Government and supports COSLA in that work.

Council further notes and agrees with the statement from the SJC trade Unions Unite, GMB and Unison that "Whilst we welcome the Scottish Government's announcement of a £500 'bonus' for staff in health and social care we believe this payment should be extended to the many other public service workers, many across Local Government, involved in responding to the Covid pandemic".

Minute of Meeting

Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 19 January 2021	13:00	Microsoft TEAMS Platform,

Present

Councillor Bill Binks, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Natalie Don, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Kenny MacLaren, Councillor Mags MacLaren, Councillor Colin McCulloch, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Kevin Montgomery, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Emma Rodden

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, 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 and C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager (all Communities & Housing Services); and K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, D Pole, End User Technician, A McLaughlan, Solicitor Litigation & Licensing, S Muir, Finance Business Partner and R Devine and C MacDonald, both Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources).

Recording

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 Rodden declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of item 6 of the agenda – Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan: Funding update – as she was an employee of Turning Point (Scotland) and indicated she would take no part in the discussion or decision on the matter.

Councillor Nicolson declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of item 9(a) of the agenda – Planning Application – Erection of 603 dwellinghouses with associated access, parking and landscaping at Grounds at Dykebar Hospital, Grahamston Road, Paisley PA2 7DE – as he was a non- executive director of the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and indicated he would take no part in the discussion or decision on the matter.

1 Police, Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-committee held on 27 October 2020, which forms the Appendix to this Minute.

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 to 13 November 2020.

The report stated that the projected outturn at 31 March 2021 for all services reporting to this Policy Board was an overspend position of £1.031 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 increase of £39,000, comprising an increase of £40,000 in budget to reflect the drawdown of funds for the tackling poverty project for street stuff activities and a £1,000 increase in income budgets reflecting the Communities, Housing & Planning Services proportion of the increase in sales, fees and charges as contained in the relevant 2020/21 budget motion had been processed since the last meeting. In addition, the report intimated that since consideration of the previous report, capital budget changes totalling £6.795million had arisen which reflected Budget re-profiling from 2020/21 to 2021/22 in respect of the following budget headings; Improvements to Existing Properties (£2.656 million); Council House New Build (£3.310 million); Other Assets (£0.629 million); and Private Sector Housing Grant (£0.200 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 twelfth round of funding. The report outlined the key objectives and aims of the Community Empowerment Fund. Two new applications had been received and had been considered for funding together with one deferred application, from Bishopton Community Development Trust, Linwood Community Development Trust and Kelbourne Hockey Club, and summaries of these applications were provided. The total value of requested grant funding during the current round was £120,000. The recommendations of the cross-service panel of officers, for determination in respect of each application were detailed within Section 4 of the report and Appendix 1.

DECIDED: That the Board approve the recommendation, detailed in section 4 and Appendix 1, to award £10,000 to Bishopton Community Development Trust.

4 Greenspaces, Park & 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 against agreed objectives and criteria. The Director of Communities & Housing Services had been delegated authority to make grant awards under £5,000. Details of four awards made in terms of this delegated authority, which had not previously been reported to this Policy Board, were detailed in Appendix 1. The report stated that activity had been restricted and progress slower than anticipated due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Updates were provided in respect of specific projects currently in development. One application which met the criteria, from Erskine Youth Council, which sought more than £5000, had been assessed during this funding round. A summary of this project was provided within the report with full details included within the Appendix.

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 £6,361 to community groups detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be noted;

(c) That it be agreed that the project, detailed in section 3 of the report and Appendix 1, by Erskine Youth Council be awarded grant funding totalling £50,000 to support community groups; and

(d) That it be noted that community groups were now being advised to submit applications by 31 March 2021 as the best opportunity to secure funding for their projects.

5 Service Update and Performance Scorecard

5(a) Communities, Housing & Planning Services

There was submitted an update report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to the Service Improvement Plan 2020/21 for Communities, Housing & Planning Services and outlined priorities to Spring 2021, key areas of focus and plans to support the Council's recovery plans.

Appended to the report was a performance update, covering all performance indicators and actions within the Service Improvement Plan 2020/21, for the period to September 2020. It was highlighted that an update report would also be submitted to the meeting of the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board, to be held on 27 January 2021, in relation to those areas of service activity within the Plan that were within that Policy Board's remit.

The report advised that the Service Improvement Plans for 2020/21 had been developed for all Council Services, with the Service Improvement Plan 2020/21 for Communities, Housing & Planning Services being approved at the meeting of this Policy Board held on 10 March 2020. It was noted that the agreed actions and activities within the Plan had not proceeded following the national lockdown on 10 March 2020 or were not being undertaken in the same way due to Covid-19. In addition, it was noted that it was anticipated that the draft 2021/22 Service Improvement Plans would be submitted to the spring 2021 Board cycle and have a strong focus on recovery and renewal rather than solely improvement.

DECIDED:

(i) That the performance information for quarters 1 and 2 of 2020/21, as appended to the report be noted; and

(ii) That otherwise the report be noted.

5(b) Children's Services

There was submitted an update report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Children's Services Service Improvement Plan 2020/21, which included Criminal Justice Social Work which was within the remit of this Policy Board, and outlined priorities to Spring 2021, key areas of focus and plans to support the Council's recovery plans.

Appended to the report was a performance update covering performance indicators and actions relating to Criminal Justice Social Work activity, for the period to September 2020 within the Service Improvement Plan 2020/21 for Children's Services. It was highlighted that an update report would also be submitted to the meeting of the Education & Children's Services Policy Board, to be held on 21 January 2021, in relation to those areas of service activity within the Plan that were within that Policy Board's remit.

The report advised that Service Improvement Plans for 2020/21 had been developed for all Council Services, with the Service Improvement Plan 2020/21 for Children's Services, being approved at the meeting of this Policy Board held on 12 March 2020, in relation to those areas within the remit of this Policy Board. It was noted that the agreed actions and activities within the Plan had not proceeded following the national lockdown on 10 March 2020 or were not being undertaken in the same way due to Covid-19. In addition, it was noted that it was anticipated that the draft 2021/22 Service Improvement Plans would be submitted to the spring 2021 Board cycle and have a strong focus on recovery and renewal rather than solely improvement.

DECIDED:

- (i) That the performance information for 2020/21, as appended to the report be noted; and
- (ii) That otherwise the report be noted.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Rodden having previously declared an interest in the following item of business took no part in the discussion or decision.

6 Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan: Funding update

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to progress on the development and implementation of a Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan (RRTP) for Renfrewshire and the allocation of funding.

The report advised that the Scottish Government had established a Homelessness & Rough-sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) during October 2017 to produce solutions to help address issues raised by homelessness and rough-sleeping. A key recommendation from the HARSAG, which was accepted by the Scottish Government, was that all local authorities required to consult on and produce a five-year Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan covering the period 2019/24. The Scottish Government had subsequently issued guidance to all local authorities regarding the production of a RRTP, which was to be developed as a means of demonstrating how each local authority and its partners would ensure that those who were homeless were provided with accommodation as quickly as possible, minimised the need to stay in temporary accommodation and had greater access to an up-scaled use of the Housing First model and/or other support. Key partners including local and national Housing Associations, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership and a range of third sector organisations had been consulted on the content of a RRTP for Renfrewshire. It had originally been proposed that resources would be allocated from the Scottish Government's 'Ending Homelessness Together' fund to support and

assist local authorities in the implementation of their RRTP's, once they had been fully evaluated. Following review by the Scottish Government of submissions made by local authorities it had been agreed that funding would be allocated, for 2019/22, using a formula-based distribution model, based on a three-year average of homelessness assessments, rather than on full evaluations of the RRTP's. The total available funding was £24 million over three years with £8 million allocated each year. Renfrewshire had been awarded £186,000 and £187,000 for the implementation of rapid rehousing related initiatives during 2019/20 and 2020/21 respectively. On 10 December 2020 it had been announced that a further £189,000 had been allocated in respect of 2021/22. The report indicated that this funding would be used locally to increase the number of homeless applicants supported via the 'wraparound' support, which was a key element of the Housing First approach, as well as additional resettlement assistance for those moving from temporary accommodation in order to address the problems that often arose when settled tenancies commenced. These were priority areas identified during the compilation of the RRTP for Renfrewshire.

The report also highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic had affected the implementation of RRTPs across Scotland, however within Renfrewshire the number of people being supported via the Housing First approach had increased from 20 to 30, while the RRTP funded resettlement staffing resource had helped to support 170 homeless applicants to move from temporary to settled accommodation during the period March to December 2020, and that the length of time for the Council to complete the legal duty to those who were homeless continued to be better than the national average.

DECIDED:

(a) That the progress made to date with the implementation of a Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan for Renfrewshire be noted; and

(b) That it also be noted that the allocation of £189,000 for 2021/22 from the Scottish Government would be used for the further implementation of the Plan.

7 Technology Enabled Care (TEC) in Housing Charter

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities & Housing Services relative to the Technology Enabled Care in Housing Charter (TEC in Housing Charter) and seeking authorisation to sign up, on behalf of the Council, to the Charter and the pledges contained within.

The report advised that the TEC in Housing Charter was part of the Scottish Government's Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Ready Programme, hosted by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA), and had been launched in 2019 to support the use of technology in delivering housing solutions. The seven pledges contained within the Charter were detailed. Housing organisations across Scotland had been asked to show their support for the TEC in Housing Charter with organisations committed to signing up to a minimum of three Pledges and working towards fulfilling the others. It was recognised within the Charter guidance that it might not be practical or meaningful to sign up to all Pledges, and so the Guidance recommended to only sign up to those which had already been achieved or the organisation was currently working on. A number of Scottish local authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) had signed up to the Charter. Partnership activity

relating to the delivery of technology enabled care in housing was already taking place in Renfrewshire and aligned well with the three Charter Pledges: Engaging with the Customer (Pledge 2); Working in Partnership (Pledge 3); and Getting the Infrastructure Right (Pledge 7). The report proposed that the initial focus should be on these areas with action taken at a future stage to work towards fulfilling the other Charter Pledges. A summary of the current position in relation to Technology Enabled Care Solutions in Housing in Renfrewshire was provided.

DECIDED: That the Director of Communities & Housing Services be authorised to sign up to the Technology Enabled Care (TEC) in Housing Charter on behalf of Renfrewshire Council as detailed in sections 3 and 4 of the report.

8 Disposal of Land for new substation (Tannahill area, Ferguslie Park)

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities and Housing Services relative to the proposed disposal of a small area of land, held on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), to SP Distribution plc ("SPD") to establish a new substation and associated cabling to facilitate the development of newbuild Council housing in the Tannahill area of Ferguslie Park.

Reference was made within the report to the decision taken at the meeting of this Policy Board held on 30 October 2018 to approve a housing investment strategy for the Tannahill area of Ferguslie Park involving the construction of newbuild Council Housing and to the decision taken at meeting of the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board held on 4 September 2019 to award a contract to AS Homes (Scotland) Limited for the design and build of 101 new dwellings on the site of the former St Fergus' Primary School. An electricity substation was required to provide power to the new housing and it was therefore proposed that the land involved, which was identified on a plan appended to the report, be declared as surplus to the Council's requirements and thereafter sold together with servitude rights to SP Distribution plc for a nominal sum. The report highlighted that the Servitude rights granted would be subject to the normal commercial terms of making good etc. and that the land sale would also be subject to appropriate burdens and conditions agreed by the Head of Property Services and Head of Corporate Governance.

DECIDED:

(a) That the land for the substation as indicated and outlined in red on the plan appended to the report be declared surplus to the Council's requirements;

(b) That it be agreed that the property for the substation, as indicated on the plan appended to the report, be sold to SP Distribution plc; and

(c) That the Head of Corporate Governance, in conjunction with the Head of Property Services, be authorised to conclude the disposal of the property as detailed in the report and to grant servitude rights for cabling and access etc, as appropriate, over the areas indicated and coloured blue, pink and yellow on the plan appended to the report.

9 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.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Nicolson having previously declared an interest in the following item of business took no part in the discussion or decision

(A) 19/0810/PP – WARD 6: ERECTION OF 603 DWELLINGHOUSES WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING AND LANDSCAPING IN GROUNDS OF DYKEBAR HOSPITAL, GRAHAMSTON ROAD, PAISLEY PA2 7DE BY NHS GG&C, BDW TRADING LIMITED, BELLWAY HOMES & CALA LAND MANAGEMENT.

The Convener proposed that the application be refused. (noted that this is subject to reasons for refusal being stated) This was agreed.

DECIDED: That the application be refused. (noted that this is subject to reasons for refusal being stated).

(B) 19/0782/PP – WARD 1: ERECTION OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 142 DWELLINGHOUSES AND 106 FLATS WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, LANDSCAPING AND ANCILLIARY WORKS AT LAND TO EAST OF CLYDE VIEW PARK, KING'S INCH ROAD, RENFREW BY BELLWAY HOMES LIMITED.

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Doig, moved that consideration of the application be continued for further information.

Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor J MacLaren, moved as an amendment that the application be granted subject to the conditions and the reasons detailed within the report.

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

The following members voted for motion: Councillors Burns, Doig, Don, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, McCulloch, McGurk, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Nicolson and Rodden.

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

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued for further information.

(C) 19/0860/PP – WARD 1: ERECTION OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 18 FLATS AND 39 DWELLINGHOUSES AT SITE ON NORTH WESTERN BOUNDARY OF NO 2 ROW AVENUE, RENFREW BY PARK LANE GROUP.

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor McNaughtan, moved that consideration of the application be continued for a site visit.

Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor J MacLaren, moved as an amendment that the application be granted subject to the conditions and the reasons detailed within the report.

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

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Burns, Doig, Don, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, McCulloch, McGurk, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Nicolson and Rodden.

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

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

(D) 20/0368/PP – WARD 1: CHANGE OF USE FROM OFFICE TO NURSERY WITH EXTERNAL PLAY AREA, SINGLE STOREY FRONT EXTENSION AND EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS AND FORMATION OF COMMUNITY GARDEN AT BARRATT HOMES SALES OFFICE, MULBERRY SQUARE, RENFREW BY MR HAMILTON.

It was proposed that consideration of the application be continued for further information. This was agreed.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued for further information.

Minute of Meeting

Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 27 October 2020	15:00	Microsoft Teams Meeting,

Present

Councillors B Brown, N Don, M McGurk, J McNaughtan and J Strang.

Chair

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

M Crearie, Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services; and O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection (both Communities, Housing and Planning Services); G Dickie, Partnership & Commissioning Manger; D Pole, End User Technician; A McNaughton, Senior Committee Services Officer and K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

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

Declarations of Interest

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

1 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 for the period 1 April – 31 July 2020.

The report summarised the key performance indicators and provided statistics relating to the specific key objectives detailed in the Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2017/20, together with comparative data.

The report advised that there had been an overall downward trend in both serious and minor violence crimes with a significant decrease of 26% in Group 1 crimes which equated to between 30 and 35 victims. A significant decrease in acquisitive crime was also reported, with shoplifting crimes reduced by 52%, while a decrease by 6% in Domestic Abuse crimes had also been reported compared to the same period during 2019 and which went against the national trend.

Although two bogus crimes had been reported during this period, it was intimated that this figure may be higher as victims did not always report these crimes. Cyber-crimes had increased with significant amounts of money being involved. The report also 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 & terrorism and road safety & road crime.

The Chief Superintendent advised the sub-committee that arrangements were being made to merge three territorial command areas to two to better align with local authority boundaries to facilitate better partnership working.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

2 Spotlight - Police Scotland Covid-19 Operational Update

A Murray (Police Scotland) provided information relative to the ongoing operational response of Police Scotland to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The sub-committee was advised that the conduct of the vast majority of licensed premises had been to a high standard and that they were very co-operative with Police Scotland in adhering to the restrictions. The sub-committee was also advised that there had been a slight decrease in compliance with the restrictions, mainly in non-wearing of face coverings and house parties.

He also advised that Police Scotland was clear on its role and had measures in place to deal with matters going forward and that Community Partners and Elected Members had also provided a high level of support.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

3 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Renfrewshire Performance Report

There was submitted a report, in an infographics format, by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) relative to SFRS performance and activities in the Renfrewshire area during the reporting period 1 July – 30 September 2020.

The report also provided updates in relation to Renfrewshire activity summary; accidental dwelling fires and casualties, unintentional injury and harm, deliberate fire setting, nondomestic fire safety and unwanted fire alarm signals.

A high level of proactive work had previously been undertaken by Scottish Fire & Rescue Service which included home fire safety visits and literature being issued which had contributed to the reduction in figures during the reporting period. Although

deliberate fire setting had reduced by 22% refuse fires remain an issue.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4 Spotlight Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Covid-19 Operational Update

M Hill (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) advised that SFRS as an organisation remained prepared and ready to provide support where required.

Although staffing levels had been impacted by the pandemic with a number of cases of self isolation and adjustments to staffing levels to meet government guidelines, a high level of service had been maintained.

He also advised that changes in legislation had a positive impact on the sales of fireworks with only 20 premises in Renfrewshire having the required licence to sell these. There would be no organised fireworks event in 2020 in Renfrewshire and SFRS had worked for a period of time in partnership with Police Scotland, CCTV, Renfrewshire Council's Trading Standards and Warden Service to create an Action Plan in readiness for situations should they develop.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

Minute of Meeting Regulatory Functions Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 20 January 2021	10:00	Remotely by MS Teams ,

Present

Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Alistair Mackay, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Emma Rodden, Councillor Andy Steel, Councillor Jane Strang

Chair

Councillor McNaughtan, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

D Campbell, Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing), A McLaughlin, Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Regulatory Services), E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer, P Shiach, Committee Services Officer, K Marriott, Administrative Assistant and E Graham, 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 Montgomery.

Declarations of Interest

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

1 Renewal of Street Traders' Licences - Personal Appearances

Under reference to item 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Board held on 28 October 2020, the Board resumed consideration of the undernoted applications for renewal of Street Traders' Licences. The applicants had been asked to appear personally for the first time:-

(a) Applicant: Tracy Ann Donaldson

Authorised goods: hot and cold food, beverages and milk

Trading from: Huntly Road and Watt Road, Hillington and Maxwell Street, Paisley

Operating hours: Huntly Road and Watt Road, Hillington – Monday to Friday from 6.00 am to 2.00 pm and Maxwell Street, Paisley – Monday to Sunday from 9.00 pm to 4.00 am

Licence No.: ST003

Ms Donaldson, the applicant, joined the meeting by telephone call. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the applicant continue to be allowed to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours and that the application be granted for a period of two years. This was agreed unanimously.

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

(b) Applicant: Kelly McDowall

Authorised goods: hot and cold food, beverages and milk

Trading from: Huntly Road and Watt Road, Hillington and Maxwell Street, Paisley

Operating hours: Huntly Road and Watt Road, Hillington – Monday to Friday from 6.00 am to 2.00 pm and Maxwell Street, Paisley – Monday to Sunday from 9.00 pm to 4.00 am

Licence No.: ST089

There was no appearance by Miss McDowall. Miss E Donaldson, the applicant's representative, joined the meeting by video call. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that the applicant continue to be allowed to be an exception to the Board's policy on trading hours and that the application be granted for a period of two years. This was agreed unanimously.

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

2 Grant of Private Hire Car Operator's Licence - Personal Appearance

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

Mukhtar Ahmed Sahi Bibi

The Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Regulatory Services) advised that Mr Bibi had verbally indicated that he wished to withdraw his application but that, to date, no written confirmation of this had been received from Mr Bibi.

The Convener proposed that the application be considered in Mr Bibi's absence and 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.

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.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.20 am and reconvened at 10.55 am.

3 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) Imran Ahmed

Mr Ahmed, 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) Bilal Aziz

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Aziz. The Convener proposed that consideration of the application be continued and that the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

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

4 Renewal of House in Multiple Occupation Licence - Personal Appearance

There was submitted the undernoted application for renewal of a House in Multiple Occupation Licence. The applicant had been asked to appear personally for the first time together with the Council's Director of Communities and Housing Services:-

Applicant: Scott Hume

Property: Flat 2/2 9 Townhead Terrace, Paisley

Licence No.: HMO 014

Mr Hume, the applicant, joined the meeting by video call together with Ms McEwan, on behalf of the Council's Director of Communities and Housing Services, 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 three years subject to the property meeting the standards requested by the Council's Director of Communities and Housing Services within a period of six months and that a final inspection be carried out within the same period. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the application be granted for a period of three years subject to the property meeting the standards requested by the Council's Director of Communities and Housing Services within a period of six months and that a final inspection be carried out within the same period.

5 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:-

Michael Curran T2035

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

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

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

Under reference to item 4(b) of the Minute of the meeting of this Board held on 19 November 2020, the Board resumed consideration of the undernoted application for grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence. The applicant had been asked to appear personally for the second time together with Police Scotland who had submitted a representation to the application:-

Mark Monteith

Mr Monteith, the applicant, joined the meeting by video call together with Sergeant Robertson, representing 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 one year. This was agreed unanimously.

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12.10 pm and reconvened at 1.00 pm.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Hughes declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of item 7(a) as the applicant was known to her, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.

7 Applications for Landlord Registration - Personal Appearances

Under reference to item 5(a) of the Minute of the meeting of this Board held on 30 January 2020, the Board resumed consideration of application (a) for grant of Landlord Registration; and under reference to item 8(c) of the Minute of the meeting of this Board held on 14 November 2019, the Board resumed consideration of application (b) for grant of Landlord Registration. The applicants had been asked to appear personally for the second time together with the Council's Director of Communities and Housing Services:-

(a) Stuart McIlree

Mr McIlree, the applicant, joined the meeting by telephone call together with Ms Kettle, on behalf of the Director of Communities and Housing Services, who 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 three years. This was agreed unanimously.

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

SEDERUNT

Councillor Hughes re-joined the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

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

(b) David Blackwood

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Blackwood. Mr Hunter, on behalf of the Council's Director of Communities and Housing Services, joined the meeting by video call. The Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Regulatory Services) advised that a late objection had been received to this application and that Mr Blackwood had been advised of this only the evening before the Board meeting. As a result, Mr Blackwood had been advised that the Board would be requested to continue consideration of this application today in order that the late objection could be intimated to him formally. Mr Blackwood had also been advised that he did not require to join this meeting of the Board.

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

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

8 Hearings into the Possible Removal from Register of Private Landlords - Personal Appearances

Under reference to item 9(a) of the Minute of the meeting of this Board held on 14 November 2019, the Board resumed consideration of the possible removal of landlord (a) from the Register of Private Landlords; and considered the possible removal of landlords (b) and (c) from the Register of Private Landlords. Landlord (a) has been asked to appear personally for the second time and landlords (b) and (c) for the first time together with the Council's Director of Communities and Housing Services:-

(a) Neda Ghaffar

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Ms Ghaffar. Mr Hunter, on behalf of the Council's Director of Communities and Housing Services, joined the meeting by video call. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that Ms Ghaffar be removed from the Register of Private Landlords. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the landlord be removed from the Register of Private Landlords.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 13.35 pm and reconvened at 13.55 pm.

(b) Iain Campbell

Mr Campbell, the landlord, joined the meeting by video call together with Mr Hunter, on behalf of the Director of Communities and Housing Services, who also joined the meeting by video call. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Board adjourned to allow members to consider the matter. The meeting was reconvened and the Convener proposed (i) that no action be taken and that the landlord be not removed from the Register of Private Landlords; and (ii) that the Council's Director of Communities and Housing Services arrange for all properties detailed in Mr Campbell's landlord registration to be inspected with any issues reported to the licensing section. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(i) That no action be taken and that the landlord be not removed from the Register of Private Landlords; and

(ii) That the Council's Director of Communities and Housing Services arrange for all properties detailed in Mr Campbell's landlord registration to be inspected with any issues reported to the licensing section.

(c) Manzoor Zafar

Mr Zafar, the landlord, joined the meeting by telephone call together with Mr Hunter, on behalf of the Council's Director of Communities and Housing Services, who joined the meeting by video call. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Board adjourned to allow members to consider the matter. The meeting was reconvened and the Convener proposed that the landlord be removed from the Register of Private Landlords. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the landlord be removed from the Register of Private Landlords.

Minute of Meeting

Education and Children's Services Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 21 January 2021	13:00	Teams meeting,

Present

Councillor Derek Bibby, Ms Mary Jane Bird, Provost Lorraine Cameron, Councillor Carolann Davidson, Councillor Natalie Don, Councillor Edward Grady, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Karen Kennedy, Councillor Scott Kerr, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Will Mylet, Mr Jack Nellaney, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor John Shaw, Mr Ravinder Singh, Councillor Jane Strang

Chair

Councillor Paterson, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

S Quinn, Director of Children's Services, J Calder, Head of Service (Curriculum and Quality), G McKinlay, Head of Schools and J Trainer, Head of Childcare & Criminal Justice (all Children's Services); J Connolly, Senior Communications Officer (Chief Executive's); G McLachlan, Senior Finance Manager, L Belshaw, Democratic Services Manager, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer and D Pole, End User Technician (all Finance & Resources).

Recording of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that the 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 Shaw declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 of the agenda as his sister was a foster carer and indicated he would take no part in the discussion or decision on the matter.

Councillor Nicolson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 of the agenda as he was a member of Renfrewshire Fostering and Adoption Panels and indicated he would take no part in the discussion or decision on the matter.

Councillor Kennedy declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 of the agenda as she was a member of Renfrewshire Fostering and Adoption Panels and indicated she would take no part in the discussion or decision on the matter.

Councillor Kerr declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 of the agenda as he was a member of Renfrewshire Fostering and Adoption Panels and indicated he would take no part in the discussion or decision on the matter.

Councillor Graham declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 of the agenda as he was a member of Renfrewshire Fostering and Adoption Panels and indicated he would take no part in the discussion or decision on the matter.

1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring as at 13 November 2020

There was submitted a joint Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring report by the Directors of Finance & Resources and Children's Services for the Service to 13 November 2020.

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. Forecasts were likely to be subject to considerable fluctuation as the full service implications and associated costs of the pandemic became clear. The Service would continue to mitigate as far as possible any overspend and would apply the flexibility within specific grant funding permitted by the Scottish Government in order to achieve a breakeven revenue outturn position;
- (b) That the projected capital outturn position for Children's Services as detailed in Table 2 of the report be noted; and
- (c) That the budget adjustments as detailed in sections 4 and 6 of the report be noted.

2 Service Update and Performance Scorecard

Under reference to item 2 of the Minute of the Meeting of the Board held on 29 October 2020 there was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services providing a further update on key areas within the Board's remit. In addition, the report outlined the

priorities through to Spring 2021, and highlighted key areas of focus and plans for the next steps to support the Council's recovery plans. It was noted that whilst developing these plans the local and national position remained fluid and services would remain flexible in order to be able to respond quickly in relation to changes in restrictions and local outbreaks of Covid-19.

Appended to the report was a performance update covering quarters 1 and 2 of 2020/21. It was noted that service improvement plans for 2020/21 had been developed for all Council Services. The majority of actions and activities did not proceed or were not undertaken in the same way due to Covid-19 and new service improvement plans for 2021/22 would reflect the greater focus on recovery and renewal rather than solely improvement activities. These plans would be linked to the recovery plans being developed and delivered by Council services. Draft service improvement plans would be submitted to the spring 2021 Board cycle and this would restart the normal scrutiny and governance activity associated with these plans.

It was proposed that members be provided with further information in relation to the number of children shielding, the number of positive cases and the number of key workers' children attending school in comparison to attendance during the earlier lockdown beginning in March 2020. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the performance information for quarters 1 and 2 of 2020/21 as appended to the report be noted; and
- (c) That members be provided with further information in relation to the number of children shielding, the number of positive cases and the number of key workers' children attending school in comparison to attendance during the earlier lockdown beginning in March 2020.

3 Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 which required local authorities and health boards to produce three-yearly Children's Services Partnership Plans. In line with the statutory guidance a report on progress of the Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan annual report was due on 1 April 2020. The report noted that in response to the Covid-19 pandemic the Scottish Government had relaxed the timescales for annual reports and required planning partnerships by 30 September 2020 to produce a timetable for publication of reports and plans. Renfrewshire's timetable had indicated that the Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan annual review would be published by 31 January 2021 and the report intimated that a new three-year plan was being prepared for consultation by February 2021 and would be submitted to the meeting of this Board to be held on 18 March 2021 prior to publication in April 2021.

It was proposed that there be a report to members in relation to the work being done on the Plan and that members be provided with details in relation to waiting times for assessments by educational psychologists. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

- (a) That it be noted that, in line with statutory requirements, an annual report on the 2018-21 Children's Services Partnership Plan would be submitted in January 2021;

- (b) That the timetable to publish a new three-year Children's Services Partnership Plan in April 2021 be noted; and
- (c) That there be a report to members in relation to work being undertaken on the Plan and that members be provided with details in relation to waiting times for assessments by educational psychologists.

4 Response to proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road, Paisley

Under reference to item 8 of the Minute of the Meeting of the Board held on 20 August 2020 there was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the response to the consultation on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road, Paisley.

The report provided details of the consultation that had been undertaken and intimated that the outcome demonstrated support for the proposal for the relocation of Paisley Grammar School. Appendix 1 to the report detailed issues raised and their consideration. Appendix 4 to the report contained the response to the consultation from Education Scotland which was supportive of the Council's proposal.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the issues raised through the formal consultation as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (b) That the comments made by Education Scotland be noted in relation to the educational benefits of the proposals detailed in Appendix 4 to the report; and
- (c) That the proposal to relocate Paisley Grammar School to a new build community campus at Renfrew Road, Paisley be approved.

5 Scottish Attainment Challenge End of Year Report

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Scottish Attainment Challenge End of Year Report and progress made as part of revised end of year reporting arrangements.

The report intimated that Renfrewshire became one of nine challenge authorities in 2016. The overall aim of the Attainment Challenge was to close the poverty-related attainment gap. Part of the requirements was a bi-annual report to the Scottish Government which outlined progress towards three long-term outcomes - improving learning and teaching; improving health and well-being; and closing the poverty-related attainment gap. The report noted that, despite the challenges of the pandemic which resulted in significant changes in working practices and routines, very good progress had been made and workstreams had adapted successfully and continued to deliver high-quality, evidence-based approaches which were having a positive impact on the teaching of literacy and numeracy and the health and well-being of Renfrewshire children and young people.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

6 Additional Support Needs (ASN) Home to School Travel Assistance Policy

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to a review of the additional support needs (ASN) home to school travel assistance policy.

The report intimated that in line with legislative requirements, Renfrewshire Council's home to school transport policy ensured children and young people attending mainstream schools outwith walking distance were able to do so. However, this policy did not make provision for specific circumstances where a child or young person had additional support needs which prevented them from accessing learning. Following a review of current practice, a ASN home to school travel assistance policy, which formed the appendix to the report, had been developed which provided a framework for home to school travel assistance for eligible children and young people and which set out the criteria by which this would be agreed.

DECIDED: That the ASN home to school travel assistance policy, as appended to the report, be agreed.

7 Examinations Results 2020

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to attainment in the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) National Qualifications in 2020, based on the key measures contained in the Insight benchmarking tool. The report provided data and commentary on the performance of the S4, S5 and S6 cohorts over the last three years.

The report intimated that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 exam diet could not take place. Results were awarded based on teacher estimates and were therefore not comparable with previous years. Insight, which was a Scottish Government performance evaluation tool to benchmark performance in four key measures: attainment in literacy and numeracy; improving attainment for all; attainment versus deprivation; and leavers' destinations, was normally updated in spring and a further report providing data on school leavers' attainment would be submitted to the Board when this data became available. It was noted that Skills Development Scotland was tracking school leavers' destinations.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the content of the report be noted with the caveat that the data was not directly comparable with previous years;
- (b) That the efforts of pupils and the school communities in bringing about these results be noted; and
- (c) That it be noted that a further report would be brought to the Board when leavers' data became available.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Graham, Kennedy, Kerr, Nicolson and Shaw having previously declared an interest in the following item of business took no part in the discussion or decision.

8 Annual report of the Fostering and Adoption Service 2019/20 Update on developments for Looked After Children and Fostering Service

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the annual report of the Fostering and Adoption Service.

The annual report, which formed Appendix 1 to the report, set out the work undertaken by the Fostering and Adoption Panel and the Fostering and Adoption Service during 2019/20 and was set in the context of the broader issues pertaining to looked after and accommodated children. The report referenced how the service managed during the pandemic and considered the future work of the fostering and adoption service. The report noted that a review of the constitutions of the fostering and adoption panels had been carried out and that these had been updated and were attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the contents of the Fostering and Adoption Annual Report 2019/20, as appended to the report, and the changed reporting period be noted;
- (b) That the continuing effort to secure foster carers and adoptive parents for Renfrewshire's children who required an alternative family placement be noted;
- (c) That it be noted how the service continued during the pandemic; and
- (d) That the updated constitution for the Fostering and Adoption Panels be agreed.

9 Renfrewshire's Promise: Our plan for the implementation of "The Promise" to Scotland's children

Under reference to item 22 of the Minute of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 September 2020, there was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the findings of the independent care review about the future of Scotland's Care system and the changes required to improve this. The findings centred on 'The Promise' that all children in Scotland would grow up 'loved, safe and respected'. The report intimated that since the publication of the review in February 2020, work had been undertaken to progress the commitment to 'The Promise' and provided an update on the national work and the local perspective, including the involvement of the Children's Champions Board.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the work being undertaken to develop Renfrewshire's response to 'The Promise' and commitment to developing a Renfrewshire Promise Plan be noted; and
- (b) That it be noted that a further report would be submitted to the Board which would update on implications for policy and practice in Renfrewshire.

Minute of Meeting

Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 25 January 2021	10:00	Remotely via Microsoft Teams,

Present

Councillor Tom Begg, Councillor Bill Binks, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Emma Rodden, Councillor Jim Sharkey

In Attendance

L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning and N Irvine-Brown, Policy Lead, Performance & Quality (both Chief Executive's); D Gillies, Head of Facilities Management and D Kerr, Service Co-ordination Manager (both Environment & Infrastructure Services); A McMahon, Chief Auditor, K Campbell, Assistant Chief Auditor, D Pole, End User Technician, A McNaughton and C MacDonald, both Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

M Ferris, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.

Apology

Councillor Jane Strang.

Declarations of Interest

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

1 Summary of Internal Audit Reports for period 1 October to 31 December 2020

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.

An 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 October to 31 December 2020.

The report intimated that in addition to the reports listed in the Appendix, Internal Audit had an ongoing commitment to a range of corporate and service initiatives, to progress information security matters in partnership with ICT and Legal Services, provided regular advice to officers, provided 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.

Discussion took place on Community Asset Transfer. It was proposed that members be provided with information in relation to the scale of the problem; the number of applications that did not include relevant information; the list of community transfer bodies; reports on the operation of the Act and the effects; and the winding up of a Community Asset Transfer body after transfer of an asset. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

(a) That the summary of Audit findings report for the period 1 October to 31 December 2020 be noted; and

(b) That information in relation to Community Asset Transfer be sent to members of the Board.

2 Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Progress and Performance for Period 1 October to 31 December 2020

There was submitted a report by the Chief Auditor relative to Internal Audit and Counter Fraud performance between 1 October to 31 December 2020 in terms of the delivery of the Audit Plan for the year and outlining actual performance against targets set by the Director of Finance & Resources.

No formal performance targets for fraud investigation had been established as a major part of the team's work involved being the single point of contact for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Single Fraud Investigation Service and the Service Level Agreement for the work contained time targets for completing this work. It was noted that the focus over the last year had been on increasing fraud awareness amongst employees to prevent fraud from occurring against the Council. The types of fraud referrals received to date were wide-ranging and the team's objective was to concentrate on investigating those referrals considered to contain the greatest fraud risk. The report also detailed the progress made against local and national initiatives involving Internal Audit and the

Counter Fraud Team.

The report advised that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of fraud investigation work was suspended until September 2020. This work had now recommenced with priority being given to those areas with the greatest fraud risk. Joint working with the DWP's Single Fraud Investigation service had also temporarily ceased as the DWP's Single Fraud Investigation service were awaiting a date for the work to recommence. Referrals for consideration of fraud investigations were still being passed to the DWP. All of the Counter Fraud Team were currently working from home.

It was noted that the Internal Audit team were also working from home full-time and continued to work on planned audit assignments which were able to be undertaken remotely. The team was also providing advice and support where necessary to Council services. In addition, a review of the current audit plan had been undertaken to take account of the current situation and proposed amendments to the plan were included in the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Team progress and performance from 1 October to 31 December 2020 be noted;

(b) That the proposed amendments to the Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21 be approved; and

(c) That authority be delegated to the Chief Auditor to continue to monitor and, if necessary, revise the Internal Audit Plan, in consultation with the Convener, for the remainder of the year to March 2021. Any amendments made under this delegation would be reported to members in the annual report.

3 2019/20 Complaints Data Report

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the annual complaints report 2019/20.

The report intimated that the Council's complaint-handling procedure ensured that the Council knew how well it was delivering its services and showed its commitment to using the issues raised in complaints to improve services. Full implementation of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman's (SPSO) guidance commenced within the Council from 1 March 2013 which introduced quicker, simpler and more streamlined complaints handling with local, early resolution. As part of the procedure, all complaints resolved at the frontline were recorded and monitored and in line with the model SPSO complaints handling procedure, Renfrewshire Council's complaints handling procedure complied with the model Complaints Handling procedure for local authorities introduced by the SPSO at that time.

The report provided information on complaints closed during the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 and performance on key indicators and highlighted improvements made to the complaints handling procedure over the past year to ensure that complaints were handled well, and the organisation learned from them.

The report covered the period up to the end of March 2020 therefore the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent national lockdown had not impacted on the figures reported. However, due to the pandemic and the focus of officers on the response phase, it was not possible for the report to be submitted to the Board as intended in Autumn 2020.

It was noted that 7,924 complaints were received in 2019/20, which was an decrease from 8,200 in 2018/19; 86.8% of the complaints were handled at the frontline stage; 72% of frontline complaints and 87% of investigation complaints received were completed within target timescales; the average time to respond to an investigation complaint was 13.3 days, which was within the SPSO target of 20 days. The 2019/20 breakdown of complaints received by Services was broadly reflective of the volume of services provided, with Environment and Infrastructure Services delivering the highest volume of frontline Council services and consequently receiving the highest volume of customer interactions. The SPSO introduced changes to the national complaints handling process in 2020. Local authorities were required to introduce these changes by April 2021. The key changes to the statutory model were set out within the report; and a new system to support the logging of and learning from complaints was launched by the Council in April 2020.

A performance scorecard was included within the appendix to the report to provide additional data.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Board resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item 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 and 14 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4 Summary of Internal Audit Investigation Report for period 1 October to 31 December 2020

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 an internal audit investigation.

It was noted that the recommended assurance ratings contained within Appendix 1 to the report had been amended to reflect that the Environment & Infrastructure overtime had changed from 2 Important to 1 Important and 1 Service Improvement

DECIDED:

(a) That the summary of the Internal Audit Investigation finalised during the period from 1 October to 31 December 2020 be noted; and

(b) That it be noted that the recommended assurance ratings contained within Appendix 1 of the report had been amended to reflect that the Environment & Infrastructure overtime had changed from 2 Important to 1 Important and 1 Service Improvement.

Minute of Special Meeting

Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 26 January 2021	16:00	Microsoft Office TEAMS platform,

PRESENT

Councillor Bill Binks, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Natalie Don, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Kenny MacLaren, Councillor Mags MacLaren, Councillor Colin McCulloch, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Kevin Montgomery, Councillor Iain Nicolson and Councillor Emma Rodden.

CHAIR

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

M Crearie, Director of Communities and Housing Services; A Morrison, Head of Economy & Development, L Mahon, Head of Marketing & Communications, S Marklow, Strategy & Place Manager, and C Orr, Senior Communications Officer (all Chief Executive's); F Carlin, Head of Housing Services, O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection and C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager (all Communities & Housing Services); and K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, I Blair and D Pole, both End User Technicians, S Muir, Finance Business Partner and R Devine and C MacDonald, both Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources).

RECORDING

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 Nicolson declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of item 1 of the agenda – Planning Application – Erection of 603 dwellinghouses with associated access, parking and landscaping at grounds at Dykebar Hospital, Grahamston Road, Paisley PA2 7DE – as he was a non-executive director of the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and left the meeting.

1 **PLANNING APPLICATION - 19/0810/PP: ERECTION OF 603 DWELLINGHOUSES WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING AND LANDSCAPING AT GROUNDS OF DYKEBAR HOSPITAL, GRAHAMSTON ROAD, PAISLEY PA2 7DE BY NHS GG&C, BDW TRADING LIMITED, BELLWAY HOMES & CALA LAND MANAGEMENT**

Under reference to Item 9(a) of the Minute of the meeting of this Policy Board held on 19 January 2021 there was submitted a report by the Head of Economy & Development relative to the above application for planning permission that required to be determined by the Board. The report asked the Board to complete its consideration of the application taking into account the Report of Handling and the other documents attached to the report.

The Convener proposed that the application be refused for the following reasons:

The proposed application fails to meet a key principle of Scottish Planning Policy with regard to the ‘Right development in the Right Place’ for the following reasons;

The high level of tree cover being removed to accommodate housing units has an unacceptable impact to the natural environment contrary to Scottish Planning Policy which states “Planning permission should be refused where the nature or scale of proposed development would have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment”;

Scottish Planning policy has a presumption against land raising and implementation of the precautionary principle regarding flooding. The applicant has failed to demonstrate that the proposed land raising would not impact on the potential for increased flooding and natural water tables of the site;

The proposed development creates identifiable issues regarding capacity at a number of local schools within the catchment area. Potentially disadvantageous for pupils and the education system as a whole and no details are provided as to implementation of mitigation measures;

The proposal increases the level of carbon emissions and coupled with the removal of extensive tree cover it will have a net contribution to carbon emissions which have not been fully mitigated by other measures. Contrary to adopted council policy on climate change;

The local road network infrastructure and capacity will be adversely impacted and mitigation measures have not been proposed or demonstrated to minimise this impact;

It is considered that the density scale and layout of this proposal is not appropriate to the site and its impact on existing environment unacceptable contrary to design principles that that development should fit into existing surrounding environment and not change them adversely;

The development does not comply with the local development spatial strategy plan in that it fails to contribute positively to the character and appearance of the place, benefiting the amenity of the surrounding area and protecting and enhancing the natural, built and cultural heritage and its setting;

Councillor McNaughtan proposed that to augment the above reasons, additional reasons be added to those already outlined for the decision, as the development would contribute to congestion and have an adverse impact on air quality in that it would increase car journeys through the centre of Paisley as the proposed housing development and the local high school are at opposite ends of the town, and the development would adversely impact the local road infrastructure by increasing congestion and the road into the estate would be backed up at busy times, as detailed in the Report of Handling, due to the lack of local facilities. It is desirable that proposals should seek to reduce commuting rather than contribute to congestion. The Convener accepted the additional reasons.

The Policy Board agreed unanimously that the application be refused for the reasons outlined and that due to the reasons outlined, the proposal in the application did not accord with the Local Development Plan.

DECIDED: That the application be refused for the following reasons:

That the proposed application failed to meet a key principle of Scottish Planning Policy with regard to the 'Right development in the Right Place' for the following reasons;

- (i) The high level of tree cover being removed to accommodate housing units had an unacceptable impact to the natural environment contrary to Scottish Planning Policy which stated "Planning permission should be refused where the nature or scale of proposed development would have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment";
- (ii) That Scottish Planning policy had a presumption against land raising and implementation of the precautionary principle regarding flooding. The applicant had failed to demonstrate that the proposed land raising would not impact on the potential for increased flooding and natural water tables of the site;
- (iii) That the proposed development created identifiable issues regarding capacity at a number of local schools within the catchment area. Potentially disadvantageous for pupils and the education system as a whole and no details were provided as to implementation of mitigation measures;
- (iv) That the proposal increased the level of carbon emissions and coupled with the removal of extensive tree cover it would have a net contribution to carbon emissions which had not been fully mitigated by other measures. Contrary to adopted council policy on climate change;
- (v) That the local road network infrastructure and capacity would be adversely impacted and mitigation measures had not been proposed or demonstrated to

minimise this impact;

(vi) That it was considered that the density scale and layout of this proposal was not appropriate to the site and its impact on existing environment unacceptable contrary to design principles that the development should fit into existing surrounding environment and not change them adversely;

(vii) That the development did not comply with the local development spatial strategy plan in that it failed to contribute positively to the character and appearance of the place, benefiting the amenity of the surrounding area and protecting and enhancing the natural, built and cultural heritage and its setting;

(viii) That the development would contribute to congestion and have an adverse impact on air quality as it would increase car journeys through the centre of Paisley as the proposed housing development and the local high school were at opposite ends of the town; and

(ix) That the development would adversely impact the local road infrastructure by increasing congestion, the road into the estate would be backed up at busy times due to the lack of local facilities and it was desirable that proposals should seek to reduce commuting rather than contribute to congestion.

For the reasons outlined above the proposal in the application did not accord with the Local Development Plan.

Minute of Meeting

Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 27 January 2021	13:00	Microsoft TEAMS Platform,

Present

Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Jacqueline Cameron, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Carolann Davidson, Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Natalie Don, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Karen Kennedy, Councillor Scott Kerr, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor Will Mylet

Chair

Councillor McEwan, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

G McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure; S Marklow, Strategy & Place Manager and G Crawford, Senior Communications Officer (both 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, K Gray, Streetscene Manager, D Kerr, Service Co-ordination Manager, 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, M Law, Senior Asset & Estates Surveyor, D Pole, End User Technician, F Hughes, Asset Manager, D Farrell, Finance Business Partner and R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer and P Shiach, Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources).

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 Board would be recorded and that the recording would be available to view on the Council's website.

1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report

There was submitted a Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring report by the Directors of Finance & Resources, Environment & Infrastructure and Communities & Housing Services for the period 1 April to 13 November 2020.

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 £1.824 million against the revised budget for the year. 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. It was highlighted that budget adjustments, totalling £0.334 million, comprising budget carry forwards from 2020/21 to 2021/22 of £0.100 million in the Roads/Footways Upgrade Programme; £0.125 million for the Bridge Assessment/Strengthening budget; and £0.228 million for the Parks Improvement Programme, together with an increase in the 2021/22 Vehicle Replacement Programme of £0.173 million had been processed since consideration of the previous report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the projected Revenue outturn position as detailed in table 1 of the report be noted, acknowledging that the forecast position was based on best estimates and confirmed government support at this point in time and that forecasts were likely to be subject to considerable fluctuation as the full service implication and associated costs of the pandemic became clearer;

(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.

2 Service Update and Performance Scorecard: Environment & Infrastructure

There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Environment & Infrastructure and Communities & Housing Services relative to the Service Improvement Plan 2019/20 for Environment & Infrastructure Services which outlined priorities to Spring 2021, key areas of focus and plans to support the Council's recovery plans.

Appended to the report was a performance update, covering all performance indicators and actions within the Service Improvement Plan 2019/20, for the period to September

2020. It was highlighted that elements of the report would also be submitted to the meeting of the Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board to be held on 3 February 2021 in respect of those areas of service activities that were within that Policy Board's remit. It was noted that an update report had also been submitted to the meeting of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board, held on 19 January 2021, in relation to those elements of the Plan that were within that Policy Board's remit.

The report advised that Service Improvement Plans for 2020/21 had been developed for all Council Services, with the Service Improvement Plan 2020/21 for Environment & Infrastructure Services being approved at the meeting of this Policy Board held on 18 March 2020. It was noted that the majority of the agreed actions and activities within that Plan had not proceeded or were not being undertaken in the same way due to Covid-19. In addition, it was noted that work was being progressed to develop Service Improvement Plans for 2021/22 in relation to all Council Services and that these Plans would have a strong focus on recovery and renewal rather than solely improvement and be linked to the recovery plans being developed and delivered by Services.

DECIDED:

(a) That the performance information for quarters 1 and 2 of 2020/21, as appended to the report, be approved; and

(b) That otherwise the report be noted.

3 Renfrewshire Council Carbon Management Plan 2014/20: Update 2019/20

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to progress achieved during 2019/20 in delivering the Renfrewshire Council Carbon Management Plan 2014/20.

Renfrewshire Council Carbon Management Plan 2014/20 (the Plan), approved at the meeting of the Council's former Planning & Property Board held on 11 November 2014, quantified the Council's carbon emissions, from an established baseline of 53,515 tonnes of carbon dioxide, with the aim of reducing this 2012/13 level by 36%, by March 2020.

Reference was made within the report to the recognition by Renfrewshire Council that climate change would have far reaching effects on Renfrewshire's economy, people and environment. The Council was determined to lead by example in tackling the causes of climate change. In this connection, at the meeting of the Council held on 27 June 2019 a Climate Emergency had been declared with a view to working towards Renfrewshire being carbon neutral by 2030. It was also highlighted that a Climate Emergency Sub-Committee had also been established with key priorities, including an adaptation plan, engagement etc, developed to March 2021. The report advised that the final update figure achieved, as at March 2020, showed a reduction of 60% against the baseline carbon emission levels and detailed measures that had contributed to this position. The report indicated that future plans and initiatives would be set as part of Renfrewshire's aspiration to become carbon neutral by 2030.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4 Renfrewshire Biodiversity Duty Report 2018/20

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Duty Report 2018/20.

The report advised that the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 set out that all public bodies had a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Wildlife and Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2011, which amended the 2004 Act included a requirement that public authorities prepare a report every three years on the actions undertaken to meet biodiversity duties. A copy of the proposed Renfrewshire Biodiversity Duty Report 2018/20 was appended to the report. A summary of actions, progress and achievements during 2018/20 was provided within the report. It was highlighted that the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Duty Report 2018/20 would be published on the Council's website.

DECIDED: That the Renfrewshire Council Biodiversity Duty Report 2018/20, a copy of which was appended to the report, be noted.

5 The Renfrewshire Council (Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, City Deal) (Number Two) Compulsory Purchase Order 2021

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and Director of Finance & Resources relative to the Renfrewshire Council (Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, City Deal) (Number Two) Compulsory Purchase Order 2021.

The report provided details of land required to implement the Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, City Deal Project (the "Project") and which was to be included in the associated Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to facilitate the proposed City Deal infrastructure development. A summary of the Project was provided together with the associated benefits. The report indicated that planning consent for the Project had been granted by Scottish Ministers on 16 November 2018 while the Renfrewshire Council (Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, City Deal) Compulsory Purchase Order 2018 had been approved by Scottish Ministers on 4 September 2020. It was highlighted that the planned infrastructure of the Project required the acquisition of an area of land, extending to 29 square metres, at Lobnitz Dock, Meadowside Street, Renfrew, identified on plan E3061 a copy of which was appended to the report which had not been included in 2018 CPO. This land had originally been identified as being within the ownership of the Crown Estate and was therefore excluded from the CPO as it was not competent to include Crown Estate land in a CPO. Subsequent title checks and discussions with the Crown Estate had subsequently confirmed that the property remained in the ownership of Thos. W Ward Limited. It was noted that voluntary purchases had been completed for all land and rights required in terms of the Project which were located within the Glasgow City Council and West Dunbartonshire Council areas.

Scottish Ministers encouraged authorities to recognise that in some cases acquiring all interests by agreement may not be possible or practicable in a reasonable time or at a reasonable cost. As a result, Ministers encouraged authorities to use CPO proactively and positively to promote sustainable economic growth, improve the quality of life and bring real benefits to Scotland's Communities. Scottish Government guidance recommended a "twin track" approach to land acquisition in order to provide a greater degree of certainty on programmes should voluntary negotiations falter and to resolve any defects in the title in the land to be acquired. It was noted that the Council continued to adopt an approach of pursuing acquisition of the land, identified on plan E3061 on a voluntary basis while at the same time progressing with the preparation of the CPO and

that the CPO would be used as a fall back in the event of failure to reach agreement with the affected parties.

DECIDED:

(a) That the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire, from Thos. W Ward Limited (Company Number 00081020), the titles and interests in the land identified on Plan E3061, a copy of which was appended to the report be approved to complete implementation of the Project should voluntary acquisition not be achieved within the project timescales;

(b) That it be noted that all land required for the Project located outside the Renfrewshire area had been secured and that the Renfrewshire Council (Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, City Deal) Compulsory Purchase Order 2018, which covered all the other land required within Renfrewshire, had been approved by Scottish Ministers and became operative on 4 September 2020; and

(c) That it be noted that voluntary acquisition discussions would continue concurrently with the publication of the Compulsory Purchase Order and that voluntary acquisition would be progressed if practicable.

6 Howwood Public Park - Community Asset Transfer Request Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the proposed lease of the Pavilion at Howwood Public Park to Friends of Howwood Park following receipt of a community asset transfer request in terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The report advised that the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (Part 5) sought to encourage community groups to take control of publicly owned assets by lease or ownership, where the Community group was a community-controlled body and proposed to utilise the asset for the wider benefit of the community.

A Community Asset Transfer request for a 10-year lease of the Pavilion at an annual rent of £1, had been received from the Friends of Howwood Park group. This constituted group had been looking to improve the park for the benefit of the community and now specifically wished to refurbish the Pavilion. The Group met the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act. The report indicated that the Council currently held the Howwood Public park in terms of a Trust Deed granted to it by William and Margaret Houstoun in 1929, to retain the park for the benefit of the residents of Howwood for recreational purposes. Confirmation had been received from the Head of Corporate Governance that this burden, would not prevent the Council from granting a lease to a group, as long as the aims of the Group were to continue with the requirements of the Trust deed. The Pavilion, as indicated on plan E289, a copy of which was appended to the report, had not been used for a considerable period and had fallen into disrepair, such that it was no longer in a fit condition for use.

The report indicated that consultation had been undertaken with the local community in respect of the proposed Community Asset Transfer application resulting in positive feedback being received from respondents. The Asset Transfer Panel, which comprised officers, had convened on 4 December 2020 to consider the application. Concerns were raised about the Group's reliance on grant funding to undertake the proposal, in particular

an assumption of a substantial grant from the Council's Community Empowerment Fund, which was not guaranteed, however it was acknowledged that the Group's proposal had considerable merit, was well costed and presented. In terms of the scoring matrix used to determine such applications a positive outcome was obtained. Furthermore, it was recognised by the Panel that the application had been submitted by a constituted group with previous experience of working with Council officers to upgrade the play equipment within the park and who had brought forward a proposal which, if successful, would bring into use a facility which was currently in disrepair, and assist the community in working together to improve community facilities, for the benefit of the community. It was noted that to obtain grant funding, the Group required to secure the property by lease, and while currently they had not secured sufficient funding for their proposal, the Asset Transfer Panel agreed to recommend the application to the Policy Board, subject to the proviso that it was subject to the Group securing sufficient funding to achieve the refurbishment proposals.

DECIDED:

(a) That the grant of a lease of the Pavilion at Howwood Public Park, identified on the plan appended to the report, to the Friends of Howwood Park group be approved in terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015; and

(b) That the Head of Property Services and the Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to conclude the lease on the terms and conditions detailed in the report and any others required to protect the Council's interest.

7 Outcome of 2017 Rating Revaluation

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the outcome for Renfrewshire Council property interests of the 2017 Non-Domestic Rating Revaluation appeals process.

The report advised that non-domestic rates payments were collected by the Local Authority. Renfrewshire Council, as occupier, was liable to pay non-domestic rates as a property running cost. Consequently, it was in the Council's interest to endeavour to minimise new rating assessments, proposed by the Assessor, in each revaluation cycle. The report stated that for the 2017 revaluation, generally, all assessments where the Council had an operational interest had been appealed and summarised the approach to the settlement of the appeals together with the results.

Discussion had continued, after April 2017 with the Assessor to attempt to limit the extent of appeals which were required for the Council's property portfolio. The outcome of this exercise was that non-operational commercial retail and industrial properties, let to external tenants, along with vacant low value operational property which were below the Non-Domestic Rates collection threshold of £1,700 nett annual value were generally not appealed, except where the Council had some specific interest, in order to concentrate resources. All other operational properties were appealed during September 2017 to seek to minimise their rating assessments. The report provided a summary of the appeals process and the outcome of the appeals submitted.

It was noted that the current revaluation cycle had been extended until 1 April 2023 and that the savings achieved would be applicable over a six-year period from 1 April 2017.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that Renfrewshire Council's property portfolio had been reviewed to ensure that the Council paid what was appropriate for Non-Domestic Rates for its operational and non-operational property interests, where it had an interest;

(b) That it be noted that it had been considered appropriate for the Council to appeal valuations and seek reductions in respect of 354 properties and that appeals had resulted in a reduction in Rateable Value of £954,450, which translated into an estimated cash value saving of approximately £553,905 per annum, including default water rates, or an estimated total cash value saving of £3.23 million over the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2023, when the next revaluation was scheduled to take effect; and

(c) That it be noted that the total appealed Rateable Value for the 354 Renfrewshire Council's property interests, based on the Valuation Roll prepared by the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board (the Assessor) and effective from the revaluation date of 1 April 2017, was recorded at £18,578,750, where there was an actual or potential tax liability.

Minute of Meeting

Petitions Board

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 01 February 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

Chair

Councillor Adam-McGregor, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, K McDonagh, Education Manager (Children's Services) and C MacDonald, Senior Committee Services Officer, P Shiach Committee Services Officer and K O'Neill, Assistant Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Apology

Councillor Steel.

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 Policy Board would be recorded and that the recording would be available to view on the Council's website.

1 **Petition: Admission Policy, Ralston Early Learning and Childcare Class**

There was submitted a petition from Mr Steven Harrigan in the following terms: -

"I am raising this issue as a concerned parent. I reside in the Ralston area, yet my son has been denied the opportunity to attend his local pre-school nursery at Ralston Primary. This is mainly due to the zoning of the school by the council and in turn taking in a greater zoning area that the school can cope with, thus in turn leaving local residents and their children to go outside the area, despite paying council tax for Ralston. The zone for Ralston takes in places such as Gallowhill and Hawkhead Road, despite both areas having at least one suitable local pre-school nursery. As Ralston is a very desirable school this leads to a large number of parents in these areas making Ralston their preference when selecting options. This has led to a large number of local children, including my own missing out on their local school, when I feel strongly that local children should be given preference first.

I have previously raised the issue with the council, the school and my local Councillor Neil Graham. I was then granted a video call with a representative from each. Kathleen McDonagh from the council, Mr Graham and the Head of Ralston, Jillian McGowan. They outlined the reasons behind the decision and stated it was the Council who indeed make the rules. This is what I'm hoping to get changed, as I previously stated I feel it is neither fair nor right local children miss out on their local schools".

The Board was advised that the Education Manager had indicated that the parent had applied for a place at Ralston Nursery for his son and did not get a place due to over demand for places. The allocation process was in line with the early years admissions policy. The catchment area for early learning and childcare (ELC) was different from a primary school.

The Education Manager further advised the Board that a placement at nursery had no bearing on the school a child attended as not every primary school had an ELC class. The Scottish Government and local policy commitment was to provide parents with a range of options in terms of early years provision, for example term time/school day places and 52 weeks/extended day provision, and to ensure provision for children that were entitled to ELC. Within the Ralston area there was only one ELC provision which was Ralston Nursery. This was a term time class and would not provide the range of options for parents.

The Board was advised that this parent's application went directly to Ralston ELC. It was considered by the area admissions panel for a place commencing August 2020. The parent would have been notified of the outcome of the panel around May 2020. It was the Education Manager's understanding that following receipt of this request the parent contacted the ELC class. The parent emailed his local Councillor in early June 2020 regarding this matter and the Education Manager responded to Councillor Graham confirming the position.

The report indicated that in August 2020 Mr Harrigan requested a meeting with the Council and his local councillor to discuss his concerns. The Education Manager, along with the Head Teacher met with Mr Harrigan and Councillor Graham to discuss the matter.

The report intimated that the parent was looking for the admissions panel area for Ralston to be changed to only give priority to the Ralston families. Admissions panels and the admissions policy was monitored and reviewed on an on-going basis by Council officers, with any required changes to the policy submitted to and approved by the Policy Board. Colleagues from Children's Services meet annually following the admissions process for a new school session. When Council officers met this year, they did reflect on the panel area for the Ralston area and believed it would not be feasible to consider Ralston on its own as a defined catchment area. The policy was not amended/approved annually, but only when required, and was last approved in November 2018.

The Board then heard from the Petitioner in support of the Petition.

Councillor Adam-McGregor, seconded by Councillor Campbell moved that the Petition be referred to the Education Policy Board with the recommendation that that Board review the current admissions policy in relation to Early Learning and Childcare across Renfrewshire. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the Petition be referred to the Education Policy Board with the recommendation that that Board review the current admissions policy in relation to Early Learning and Childcare across Renfrewshire.

Minute of Meeting Local Review Body.

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 02 February 2021	14:00	Microsoft TEAMS Platform,

Present

Councillor Bill Binks, Councillor Steven Burns, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Iain Nicolson.

Chair

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

K Dalrymple, Development Plans & Housing Strategy Team Leader (Independent Planning Adviser to the Local Review Body); N Young, Assistant Managing Solicitor Litigation & Advice (Independent Legal Adviser to the Local Review Body); G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager and R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer (Clerk to the Local Review Body); E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer and D Pole, End User Technician (Finance & Resources).

Declarations of Interest

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

1 Procedure Note

The Convener indicated that the procedure to be followed at the meeting of the Local Review Body (LRB), was as detailed in item 1 of the agenda, a copy of which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

2 Notice of Review 01.21

Consideration was given to a Notice of Review in respect of the Planning Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the erection of a single storey extension to rear of dwellinghouse at 342 Glasgow Road, Paisley.

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

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

The Convener confirmed that the LRB required to decide whether it had sufficient information before it to make a decision on this matter or whether further procedure was required to allow the LRB to determine Planning Application 20/0371/PP. It was agreed that the LRB had sufficient information before it to reach a decision.

The Convener then advised that the LRB must determine the application in accordance with the provisions of the development plan, including any supplementary guidance, unless material considerations indicated otherwise.

There then followed a general discussion in relation to the Notice of Review. The independent Planning Adviser was heard in response to various issues raised by members. The Convener proposed that the application be refused for the reasons detailed in the report of handling prepared by the Planning Case Officer and included within the papers circulated prior to the meeting. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That Planning Application 20/0371/PP be refused as the proposed extension, by reason of its position would be contrary to Policy P1 of the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2014) and the Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2019), the New Development Supplementary Guidance and Renfrewshire Householder Development Guidance as it would have a detrimental impact on residential amenity.

Minute of Meeting

Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 03 February 2021	14:00	Microsoft Teams - virtual meeting,

Present

Councillor Tom Begg, Councillor Bill Brown, 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

A Russell, Director of Finance & Resources; L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning and D Christie, Senior Communications Officer (both Chief Executive's); D Gillies, Head of Facilities Management (Environment & Infrastructure); and K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, J Lynch, Head of Property Services, A MacArthur, Head of Finance, R McGrath, Head of Business & Customer Services, B Lambert, Corporate Procurement Manager, E Shields, Business Services Manager, D Pole, End User Technician, C MacDonald, Senior Committee Services Officer and R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer (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 intimated prior to commencement of the meeting.

Item Withdrawn

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Convener advised that agenda item 13 – Building Services Craft Payment Rates and Harmonising Holiday Entitlement had been withdrawn and consequently would not be considered by the Policy Board.

1 Joint Consultative Board (Non-teaching)

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Joint Consultative Board (Non-teaching) held on 11 November 2020, attached as Appendix I hereto.

DECIDED: That the Minute be noted.

2 Investment Review Board

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Investment Review Board held on 18 November 2020, attached as Appendix II hereto.

DECIDED: That the Minute be noted.

3 Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report as at 13 November 2020

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 13 November 2020.

DECIDED:

(a) That the projected revenue outturn position as 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 may not incorporate the full financial implications of a sustained period of the current lockdown arrangements. Forecasts were therefore likely to fluctuate considerably as the full service implications and associated costs of the pandemic became clear.

(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.

4 Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Council Overview as at 13 November 2020

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 13 November 2020.

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 did not yet incorporate the potential impact of the further restrictions in place since January 2021, nor the potential costs associated with Council support for any mass vaccination programme. Forecasts were therefore likely to fluctuate considerably as the full service implications and associated costs of the pandemic became clear; and

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

5 Council Tax: Write Off

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to a proposal to write off Council Tax accounts for sums over £10,000 where recovery was no longer viable. The value of the debt to be written off was £24,503.90.

DECIDED: That the sum of £24,503.90 as detailed in the report, be written off.

6 Non-domestic Rates: Write Off

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to a proposal to write off Non-domestic Rates accounts for sums over £10,000 where recovery was no longer viable. The value of the debt to be written off was £268,257.30

DECIDED: That the sum of £268,257.30 as detailed in the report, be written off.

7 Housing Benefit Overpayments: Write Off

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to a proposal to write off Housing Benefit Overpayment accounts for sums over £10,000 where recovery was no longer viable. The value of the debt to be written off was £80,067.98.

DECIDED: That the sum of £80,067.98 as detailed in the report, be written off.

8 Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Fund Budgets 2021/22

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the estimated funding available for disbursement during 2021/22 from the Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds.

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

DECIDED:

(a) That the 2021/22 budget allocations to Local Partnerships be approved as follows:

Renfrew Common Good – Renfrew Local Partnership - £67,360

Paisley Common Good – Paisley East Local Partnership - £11,100

Paisley Common Good - Paisley North West & Central Local Partnership - £9,750

Paisley Common Good – Gleniffer Local Partnership - £9,150;

(b) That the continued funding of recurring projects, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and

(c) That it be noted that a letter confirming the award of £50,000 from Paisley Common Good Fund to Thomas Coats Preservation Trust was issued in August 2020 and payment would be released when the Trust signed and returned the conditions of grant paperwork.

9 Finance & Resources Service Update and Performance Scorecard for 2020/21

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Policy Board held on 11 November 2020, there was submitted a further update report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to key service areas of activity, within this Board's remit, providing an outline of priorities to Spring 2021 and highlighting key areas of focus and plans for next steps to support the Council's recovery plans. An update on performance for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 (April to September 2020) was set out in the Appendix to the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the report be noted;

(b) That performance information for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 as detailed in the Appendix to the report be noted; and

(c) That it be noted that the Finance & Resources Service Improvement Plan would be submitted to the next meeting of this Board

10 Chief Executive's Service Update and Performance Scorecard for 2020/21

Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Policy Board held on 11 November 2020, there was submitted a further update report by the Chief Executive relative to key service areas of activity, within this Board's remit, providing an outline of priorities through to Spring 2021 and highlighting key areas of focus and plans for next steps to support the Council's recovery plans. An update on performance for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 (April to September 2020) was set out in the Appendix to the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the report be noted;

(b) That performance information for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 as detailed in the Appendix to the report be noted; and

(c) That it be noted that the Chief Executive's Service Improvement Plan would be submitted to the next meeting of this Board.

11 Facilities Management Service Update

Under reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Policy Board held on 11 November 2020, there was submitted a further update report by the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to key areas of activity within this Board's remit, providing an outline of priorities through to Spring 2021 and highlighting key areas of focus and plans for next steps to support the Council's recovery plans. An update on performance for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 (April to September 2020) was set out in the Appendix to the report.

DECIDED: That the report and performance information for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 2020/21 as appended to the report be noted.

12 Consultation on the Review of the Councillors' Code of Conduct

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to a Scottish Government consultation seeking comments on a review of the Councillors' Code of Conduct (the Code).

The review sought to bring the Code up to date, to make it easier to understand and to consider developments in society such as the increased use of social media. The changes being proposed would strengthen the Code, reinforce the importance of behaving in a respectful manner and make it clear that bullying and harassment was completely unacceptable and should not be tolerated. The aim was to produce a Code that was fit for purpose and would ensure the highest standards of conduct by Councillors in order to maintain and strengthen the trust of those they were elected to serve.

The report explained that the review proposed a substantial rewrite of the Code and detailed the main areas of change. An Appendix to the report set out the explanatory comments from the consultation document, providing more detail on the changes that were proposed and the reasons for them.

DECIDED:

- (a) That it be noted that the Scottish Government sought views on its consultation on the review of the Councillors' Code of Conduct; and
- (b) That it be noted that elected members would be advised of the final version of the revised Code, following its approval by the Scottish Ministers

13 Building Services Craft Payment Rates and Harmonising Holiday Entitlement

This item was withdrawn.

Minute of Meeting

Joint Consultative Board (Non-Teaching)

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 11 November 2020	15:00	Microsoft Teams Platform,

Present

Representing Renfrewshire Council Management - Councillors T Begg, J Harte, J McNaughtan, J Paterson and A Steel.

Representing Trade Unions – M Ferguson, S Hicks, K Kernachan and M McIntyre (UNISON); and J O'Connell and R Stewart (Unite).

In Attendance

G McKinlay, Head of Schools (Children's Services); A Bennett, Housing Services Manager (Communities, Housing & Planning Services); D Gillies, Head of Facilities Management and L Rennie, Operations Manager (both Environment & Infrastructure); L Neary, Head of Transformation HR & OD, R Cree, OD & Workforce Planning Manager, S Fanning, Principal HR & OD Adviser, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, D Pole, End User Technician, M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager and R Devine and T Slater, both Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources); and L Kilicaslan and L Cameron (both Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership).

RECORDING

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.

Appointment of Chairperson

It was proposed and agreed that M Ferguson, UNISON, chair the meeting.

DECIDED: That M Ferguson, UNISON, chair the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

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

1 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. Furthermore, 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. It was noted that consultation and collaboration had been undertaken with the trade unions to ensure the health and wellbeing of those involved in activities. The support and collaboration of the trade unions in tackling the challenging situation was acknowledged by members of the Board. During discussion the UNISON representatives indicated that arrangements were in place to distribute, to their members at individual workplaces that were operating, Covid-19 Care packs, comprising face coverings, hand sanitiser and hi-vis armbands.

The report also detailed guidance and policies that had been reviewed and/or issued, outlined the support provided to front line services in the delivery of emergency and prioritised work and to employees with underlying health conditions to ensure a safe return to work. Updates were also provided in respect of activity undertaken relative to the evaluation of contractors' health and safety documentation, submitted as part of the procurement process, Freedom of Information enquiries, supporting employees, via the employee counselling service, throughout the different phases of the pandemic, the dissemination of guidance and communications to employees and the review of arrangements for Renfrewshire House.

It was also highlighted that an essential element of the workload for the Health & Safety team had been undertaking site visits and the inspection of all high schools, primary schools, early learning centres and nurseries. It was highlighted that although scheduled meetings of the Corporate Health and Safety Committee had been suspended due to the pandemic weekly meetings with the trade unions continued to take place.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

2 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 11 grievances as at November 2020. Members noted that the number of overall grievances remained the same from the previous report in August, although some had been resolved while other new

grievances had been lodged.

It was noted that relationship issues between employees had been identified as a trend when analysing reasons for grievances. Early intervention was used to resolve workplace grievances and trained mediators were available to help resolve matters if required.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

3 Care at Home - Staff Rest Break Facilities and Uniform Provision (Update)

There was submitted a report by the Operations Manager Care at Home, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership relative to activity undertaken in response to Covid-19 and specifically the issues raised at the previous meeting in connection with provision of staff break facilities and additional uniforms.

The report stated that historically, home care workers had accessed community amenities for rest breaks throughout their working day with no formal provision of such facilities. A network of resources was available via RHSCP care homes, Extra Care and Sheltered Housing provisions. Due to lockdown measures, there was no access for non-essential visitors to these facilities resulting in them being unavailable for home care worker use. RHSCP had consequently explored alternative resources for rest break facilities to support staff whilst in the community and as a result Renfrew Day Centre, Montrose Day Centre and Johnstone Day Centre had been identified for use based on their availability, proximity, accessibility, infection control and cleaning arrangements. It was noted that these facilities could be accessed by home care workers between 8am and 9pm, seven days per week, for formal breaks and comfort breaks. In addition to the core facilities identified, three further facilities, Ralston Community Centre, Elderslie Village Hall and Hunterhill Community Centre, had been developed and also been made available.

It was highlighted that Care at Home services was working closely with the Council's Communities, Housing & Planning Services to utilise space within Rowan Court Housing Development for staff rest breaks in the longer term. The facility at Rowan Court would support employees in the the Lochfield area of Paisley, however renovation works required to be undertaken to the premises and these works had been commissioned. In the longer term, the resources currently identified would continue to be available for use by home care workers together with re-establishment of the resources previously available via Care Homes, Extra Care and Sheltered Housing developments when restrictions permitted.

The report advised that RHSCP operated Care at Home services was undergoing a review which addressed both the service delivery model and the supporting operational and management structure as part of the Older People Service Review Programme. As part of this review, Care at Home services was currently working towards an implementation of a Scheduling and Monitoring system which supported ensuring that planned breaks were in place for all staff and that resources were accessible within proximity of their working location. The target for this phase of work to be completed was June 2021. In addition, the report intimated that Care at Home services had been working with their designated uniform supplier to ensure that appropriate levels of uniforms were readily available for staff. Further stock requests had also been placed. It was noted that distribution of torches to home care workers

was also underway and a supply of snow grips was on order and would be issued to staff in due course.

During discussion the improvements regarding the supply of additional uniforms were acknowledged and it was agreed that the use of the break facilities by the Care at Home staff would continue to be monitored by the service going forward.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4 Agency Workers

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the number of agency staff employed within the Council and Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership as at September 2020 and detailing the capacity and Services in which they were engaged. The report advised that as at September 2020, 151 agency workers were employed across all Services, overall a reduction of seven agency workers from the previous report. It was noted that the use of agency workers had varied on a week to week basis during the pandemic. The Board acknowledged the commitment of the Health & Social Care workforce in undertaking additional effort in instances where the use of agency staff could potentially have increased the possibility of contamination.

In response to an enquiry the OD & Workforce Planning Manager indicated that details of the numbers of posts previously filled by agency workers which had subsequently secured employment with the Council would be provided to Unite.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

5 Timetable of Meetings 2021

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the proposed timetable of meetings for 2021.

The report advised that the current constitution of the JCB stipulated the frequency of meetings of the Board, currently requiring the Board to meet no less than four times per year. Following discussion with representatives of the management side and the trade union representatives it was proposed that the meetings of the JCB be held on 31 March, 2 June, 1 September and 10 November 2021. It was agreed that all future meetings of the JCB Non-Teaching start at 3pm or at the conclusion of the meetings of the Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board held immediately beforehand.

DECIDED:

(a) That the proposed timetable of JCB Non-Teaching meeting dates for 2021, as detailed in the report, be approved; and

(b) That it be noted that all future meetings of the JCB Non-Teaching would start at 3pm or at the conclusion of the meetings of the Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board held immediately beforehand.

Minute of Meeting Investment Review Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 18 November 2020	11:00	Teams Meeting,

Present

Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Sharkey, Councillor John Shaw

Chair

Councillor Shaw, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

A MacArthur, Head of Finance, T Slater, Senior Committee Services Officer and P Shiach, Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

D Millar, Senior Investment Analyst, Hymans Robertson LLP.

Apology

Councillor Paterson.

Declarations of Interest

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

1 Minute of Previous Meeting

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Investment Review Board held on 20 November 2019.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved, subject to an amendment to item 3, paragraph 1 which should read “fair value” and not “fir value”.

2 Review of Statement of Investment Principles

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the Review of Investment Principles in relation to the Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds.

The report indicated that the Council had arranged for the investments of the Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds to be managed by Aberdeen Standard Capital Limited and had agreed with the manager a number of principles which governed decisions regarding these investments. These principles covered a range of issues such as what benchmark should be employed against which to assess the manager’s performance, and any restrictions which the manager required to observe when choosing sectors or classes of asset in which to invest. The requirements were formalised in a Statement of Investment Principles document, which was reviewed periodically to ensure that the principles contained therein remained appropriate to the requirements of the Common Good Funds.

The report advised that the Statement of Investment Principles had last been reviewed in November 2019 and was due for review. It was proposed that no changes be made to the existing Statement.

The Head of Finance referred to discussions which had taken place at the last meeting in relation to a potential amendment to the Investment Principles to reflect the decision of the Council to support Climate Emergency measures. He indicated that an appendix had been added to Statement on a suggested route for the Board making any changes to the Principles. Any decisions in this regard would require to be taken in the full understanding by the Board of what the potential investment return and investment strategy implications may be.

The Head of Finance and the Senior Investment Analyst, Hymans Robertson LLP were then heard in answer to questions from members on the report.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the Statement of Investment Principles attached to this report be approved;
- (b) That the attached “pathway” briefing note prepared by Aberdeen Standard Capital Limited, be approved; and
- (c) That it be noted that any proposed change to the investing approach would require to be considered and agreed at a subsequent Investment Review Board meeting, and that such a change in approach would require to be reflected in an updated Statement of Investment Principles to be approved by Members.

Recording of Dissent

Councillor Sharkey, being the mover of an amendment, which failed to find a seconder asked that his dissent be recorded in terms of Standing Order 24.

3 Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds: review of investment and income performance

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the performance of the Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds during the six-months to 30 September 2020. A performance review by Hymans Robertson LLP was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Senior Investment Analyst advised that there had been a significant fall in the markets during Quarter 1 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. However there had been a significant recovery during the last 6 months. Equities were performing well, particularly overseas equities, and corporate bonds had recovered and were outperforming gilts.

The Senior Investment Analyst indicated that the value of the Paisley Common Good Fund had increased slightly from £3.939m on 31 March 2020 to £4.399m on 30 September 2020. During the same period, the Renfrew Common Good Fund assets had risen from £13.313m to £14.869m. Both portfolios had met their income targets although estimated income had decreased slightly, reflective of the economic climate. He indicated that the asset allocation had not changed significantly in the last 12 months, and that the portfolios had performed well, outperforming the benchmark during challenging economic conditions. In addition, the Senior Investment Analyst provided information on the performance of the markets from 30 September to 18 November, which indicated continuing recovery.

The Senior Investment Analyst was then heard in answer to questions from members on the report.

The Head of Finance then provided a presentation on behalf of the Investment Manager relative to the performance of the Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Fund investments. The presentation included information in relation to investment guidelines for Common Good Funds; long-term performance of the Funds; asset contribution to Common Good Funds; and investment restrictions.

DECIDED: That the report and presentations be noted.

4 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Investment Review Board was scheduled for Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 11am.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

Minute of Meeting

Regulatory Functions Board

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 04 February 2021	10:00	Remotely by MS Teams ,

Present

Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Audrey Doig, 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), E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer, P Shiach, Committee Services Officer and E Graham, 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 Rodden.

Declarations of Interest

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

1 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:-

(a) Christine Connarty

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Ms Connarty. The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that this application had been granted under delegated authority for a period of three years.

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

(b) Christopher Mills

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Mills. The Convener proposed that the application be heard in Mr Mills' absence. This was agreed unanimously. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on his registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on his registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

(c) Elaine Sheppard

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Ms Sheppard. The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that this application had been granted under delegated authority for a period of three years.

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

(d) Philip Sheppard

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Sheppard. The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that this application had been granted under delegated authority for a period of three years.

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

(e) Emma O'Hare

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Ms O'Hare. The Convener proposed that the application be heard in Ms O'Hare's absence. This was agreed unanimously. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on her registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on her registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

(f) Gary Hill

Mr Hill, 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 the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on his registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on his registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

(g) Karen Nonhebel

The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that Ms Nonhebel was unable to attend the meeting and had requested that consideration of her application be continued. The Convener proposed that consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on her registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on her registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

(h) Michael Farrell

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Farrell. The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that this application had been granted under delegated authority for a period of three years.

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

(i) Nick Swan

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Mr Swan. The Convener proposed that the application be heard in Mr Swan's absence. This was agreed unanimously. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Convener proposed that consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on his registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on his registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

(j) Pauline Goldfarb

The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that Ms Goldfarb was unable to attend the meeting and had requested that consideration of her application be continued. The Convener proposed that consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on her registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on her registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

(k) Sekhon Properties Limited

There was no appearance by or on behalf of Sekhon Properties Limited. The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that this application had been granted under delegated authority for a period of three years.

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

(l) Thomas Conway

Mr Conway, 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 the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on his registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That consideration of the application be continued to allow the applicant to meet the obligations outstanding on his registration and that, if required, the applicant be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

Minute of Meeting

Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 23 February 2021	10:00	Remotely by MS Teams,

Present

Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor, Ms Elaine McNamara, Councillor Jane Strang

In Attendance

D Briggs, Senior Solicitor (Litigation), R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer, P Shiach, Committee Services Officer and K O'Neill, Assistant Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Declarations of Interest

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

Chair

Councillor Adam-McGregor, Convener, presided.

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 Fordbank Primary School: Appeal against the exclusion of a child from attendance

All participants had been invited to attend virtually by means of MS Teams.

Children's Services were represented by C Adam, Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Advice) C Wadsworth, Acting Headteacher, M McClelland, Principal Teacher ACE Base (Fordbank Primary School) and J Colquhoun Link Education Manager.

There was no appearance by or on behalf of the appellant.

The Convener proposed that the Hearing be adjourned and reconvened at a later date to allow the appellant to be in attendance. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the Hearing be adjourned and reconvened at a later date to allow the appellant to be in attendance.