

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**CABINET**

**Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 6 April 2017.**

**Present:**

Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Deputy Leader)	Councillor Ian McAlpine
Councillor Elaine Green	Councillor Mary Montague

Councillor Fletcher, Leader, in the Chair

**Attending:**

Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Craig Geddes, Council Records Manager; and Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer.

**Apologies:**

Councillors Danny Devlin and Vincent Waters.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2453.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**ESTIMATED REVENUE BUDGET OUT-TURN 2016/17**

**2454.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, detailing the projected revenue out-turn for 2016/17 and providing details of the expected year end variances together with summary cost information for each of the undernoted services as at 3 February 2017:-

- (i) Objective and Subjective Summaries;
- (ii) Education Department;
- (iii) Health and Social Care Partnership;
- (iv) Contribution to Integration Joint Board;
- (v) Environment Department;
- (vi) Environment Department – Support;
- (vii) Corporate and Community Services Department – Community Resources;
- (viii) Corporate and Community Services Department – Support;
- (ix) Chief Executive's Office; and
- (x) Other Expenditure and Income and Other Housing.

Whilst noting that the estimated year-end position showed a favourable variance on net expenditure of £4,058,900, the report highlighted that as the Housing Revenue Account was projecting a nil balance at the year-end, the projected underspend for the General Fund was also £4,058,900 and that as agreed at the meeting of the Council on 9 March 2016, there was no budgeted transfer to reserves.

The report also highlighted that as Council Tax collection had been higher than budgeted with additional income of £800,000 now anticipated, the total forecast underspend on General Fund services would now be £4,858,900 or 2.16% of the annual budget.

The Cabinet agreed that:-

- (a) the operational adjustments be approved and the probable out-turn position be noted;
- (b) management action be taken to remedy the forecast overspend in Environment (Support); and
- (c) all service departments continue to closely monitor their probable out-turn position.

## **FRAMEWORK FOR PARTICIPATION REQUESTS**

**2455.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, setting out the framework by which community bodies could make a participation request to enter into a discussion about the design and delivery of Council services. A copy of the proposed framework for participation requests was appended to the report.

Whilst noting the background details about the provisions of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which received Royal Assent in July 2015, the report explained that Part 3 of the Act contained provisions which allowed community groups to make participation requests which were a new opportunity for enhancing community involvement in public service provision and decision making.

The report explained that the proposed framework would be used to deal with participation requests, provided information on how such requests would be dealt by the Council and outlined the four main categories that a request might fall into in terms of the framework.

Furthermore, it was noted that participation requests could only be made by those groups that were recognised as 'community participation bodies' and in the event that a participation request was accepted, the Council was only agreeing to take part in the discussion about improving a specific outcome, and not necessarily agreeing to adopt the specific proposals set out by the community group.

The Cabinet approved the East Renfrewshire Council Framework for Participation Requests.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2016**

**2456.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement providing details of the information requests made to the Council under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004, during the course of 2016. A statistical report detailing the enquiries the Council had received during 2016 was appended to the report.

The report explained that the Act and the Regulations provided a public right of access to the information which the Council held. The statistical report appended to the report highlighted the continuing significant rise in requests the Council had received and explained how it had performed in dealing with those requests.

It was noted that during the course of 2016, the Council including the Community Health and Care Partnership, the Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board and East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust had dealt with 878 requests under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and 304 under the Environmental Information Regulations (Scotland) 2004 giving a total of 1,182 requests.

The Cabinet, having heard the Council's Records Manager provide clarification on a number of issues associated with the processing of requests by the Council, noted the terms of the report.

### **POLICE SCOTLAND AND SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY CONSULTATION - 2026 SERVING A CHANGING SCOTLAND**

**2457.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval of the Council's response to a consultation document circulated by Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority in relation to the 10 year strategy for policing entitled '2026 Serving a Changing Scotland'. A copy of the proposed response was appended to the report.

The Cabinet approved the Council's response to the consultation document circulated by Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority in relation to the 10 year strategy for policing entitled '2026 Serving a Changing Scotland'.

CHAIR

