

MINUTE VOLUME

26 OCTOBER 2022

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MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 7 September 2022.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Anderson	Councillor David Macdonald (*)
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor Jim McLean
Councillor Tony Buchanan	Councillor Colm Merrick
Councillor Kate Campbell	Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Betty Cunningham (*)	Councillor Andrew Morrison
Councillor Danny Devlin	Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)
Councillor Paul Edlin	Councillor Katie Pragnell
Councillor Annette Ireland	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Chris Lunday	

Provost Montague in the Chair

(*) indicates remote attendance.

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships(*); Mark Ratter, Director of Education (*); Andy Cahill, Director of Environment(*); Julie Murray, Chief Officer - Health and Social Care Partnership(*); Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Gillian McCarney, Head of Environment (Chief Planning Officer)(*); Phil Daws, Head of Environment (Strategic Services)(*); Graeme Smith, Communications Manager(*); Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; Sharon McIntyre, Committee Services Officer; and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

(*) indicates remote attendance.

Apology:

Councillor Angela Convery.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

104. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF COUNCIL – 29 JUNE 2022

105. The Council considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 29 June 2022.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

106. The Council considered the Minutes of meetings of the undernoted.

- (a) Planning Applications Committee – 10 August 2022
- (b) Local Review Body – 10 August 2022
- (c) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 11 August 2022
- (d) Licensing Committee – 16 August 2022
- (e) Cabinet – 18 August 2022
- (f) Planning Applications Committee – 24 August 2022
- (g) Education Committee – 25 August 2022
- (h) Cabinet – 1 September 2022
- (i) Appointments Committee – 5 September 2022

The Democratic Services Manager advised that the Minute Volume noted the incorrect date of 18 August 2022 on the 1 September 2022 Cabinet minute and that this had since been corrected.

Councillor Ireland referred to the meeting of the extended Planning Applications Committee on 24 August 2022 and sought confirmation on the presentation of this Minute. The Democratic Services Manager advised that there would be a separate Minute presented following the reconvened meeting of the committee.

The Council approved the Minutes.

ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR 2021-22

107. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny of 11 August 2022 (Page 96, Item 68 refers), the Council considered a report by the Head of Accountancy seeking approval for the investment of surplus funds to the organisations listed in Appendix 7.

The Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) outlined that the list was reviewed on a regular basis and advised that an update was required to Appendix 7 to increase the Council approval for the investment in the Standard Chartered Bank from a £5m limit to a £10m limit.

The Council: -

- (a) noted the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2021/22; and
- (b) approved the list of organisations at Appendix 7 for investment of surplus funds, inclusive of the increase from a £5m limit to £10m limit for the Standard Chartered Bank.

NOMINATION OF CO-OPTED AND SUBSTITUTE CO-OPTED MEMBER ON THE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

108. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee of 11 August 2022 (Page 99, Item 72 refers), the Council approved the appointments of Councillors Macdonald and Wallace as the co-opted and substitute co-opted members respectively on the Integration Joint Board Performance and Audit Committee.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022-23

109. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 1 September 2022 (Page 133, Item 98 refers), the Council considered a report by the Head of Accountancy seeking approval for adjustments to the 2022/23 General Fund Capital Programme, approved on 3 March 2022, resulting from finalisation of the previous year's programme and in light of subsequent information.

Councillor Morrison sought confirmation of whether a breakdown was available for the £55m designated for the Eastwood Park Leisure Centre to ensure that best value was being delivered for this project. He referred to a local private project which was recently completed and the extensive refurbishment of the Tollcross Leisure Centre which took place for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, both at lower cost. In addition, he enquired about the £2m project costs allocated for 2022/23 as construction would not have started to date.

Councillor O'Donnell reminded Members that the £55m allocated for the project was the amount agreed by the previous administration, noted the impact of inflation and advised that this would be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Responding to Councillor Morrison, the Director of Environment advised that the £2m was a result of fees incurred from external consultants. He outlined that a full options appraisal and report was planned to be submitted to Council in October.

Councillor Bamforth enquired about the deferral of the Kirkhill Primary School rewire project seeking confirmation that this project not essential for safety and that it would be completed in due course.

The Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) explained that in light of current pressures education and property colleagues had reviewed all projects and prioritised these based on need. This would be kept under review moving into next year although she confirmed that the project would not be taken forward in this financial year. She also clarified that the total cost for the project had not changed.

Councillor Ireland noted that for the Learning & Leisure in Neilston project, the revised phasing across the project had resulted in a reduction in 2022/23 expenditure of £1.242m and further movement across future years and sought clarification of this. Additionally for the Eastwood Park Leisure project, she noted that it was likely further rephasing would be required as costs and timings became clearer and sought confirmation on the rephasing and when this would take place.

In reply, the Director of Environment confirmed that as referred to earlier in the meeting a report on Eastwood Park Leisure Centre project would be presented to the October Council meeting. This would include information on rising inflation, rising material costs, the implication to the Council and proposals for rephasing expenditure, all subject to approval by the Council.

In response to the question regarding the Learning & Leisure in Neilston project, the Head of Environment (Strategic Services) advised that the tender process had taken slightly longer than anticipated. This had delayed the project start and meant that the expenditure for the project had been delayed slightly although the overall outcome would not be impacted.

The Council:-

- (a) noted and approved the movements in project phasing across the 10 year capital programme;
- (b) noted and approved the movements within the 2022/23 programme; and

- (c) noted the shortfall of £0.443m and that income and expenditure on the programme will be managed and reported on a regular basis.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022-23

110. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 1 September 2022 (Page 135, Item 99 refers), the Council considered a joint report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) and Director of Environment, recommending adjustments to the 2022/23 Housing Capital Programme resulting from finalisation of the previous year's programme and in light of subsequent information.

Councillor Ireland enquired about the increase in cost for the Internal Element Renewals project from £1.392m to £1.878m and whether this was a result of a single contractor or multiple contactors. The Head of Environment (Strategic Services) advised that to ensure the correct information was provided to Councillor Ireland he would confirm with officers and provide an update after the meeting.

The Council:-

- (a) noted and approved the current movements within the 2022/23 programme;
- (b) noted the shortfall of £0.159m and that income and expenditure on the programme will be managed and reported on a regular basis.

NOTICE OF MOTION – COST OF LIVING CRISIS

111. In accordance with Standing Order 25, the following notice of motion had been submitted by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Merrick.

That East Renfrewshire and its residents are suffering due to the cost-of-living crisis. The Conservative cost of living crisis is spiralling out of control due to continuing damaging decisions imposed by Westminster, including Conservative austerity cuts, tax hikes and Brexit. At a time when East Renfrewshire families are going to be thousands of pounds worse off, it is disgraceful that the Conservatives are hitting people's incomes further by raising regressive taxes like National Insurance and VAT, slashing Universal Credit by £1040, and scrapping the triple lock on pensions.

On 6 April 2022, the Government increased National Insurance by 1.25 percentage points, which is projected to cost the some East Renfrewshire families hundreds of pounds additionally per year.

Council also notes

- *Recent figures provided by the Trussell Trust recording that 197,037 food parcels were distributed to Scottish residents between April 2021 and April 2022 – with 70,040 being distributed to children.*
- *On Ofgem has increased the energy price cap by 80 per cent. The price cap is expected to reach £3,576 in October, rising to £4,799 in January, finally hitting £6,089 in April.*

- *In the light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022).*
- *Inflation could soar to 18.6 per cent by the start of 2023.*
- *The Conservative government has suspended the pensions “triple lock” for 2022/3, meaning that East Renfrewshire’s pensioners will see a below inflation increase. Further, they have removed the relied on £20 Universal Credit uplift.*

Council believes:

Under this Government people are seeing tax hikes, energy bills soaring and petrol and food prices rising drastically.

The Conservative Government has failed to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. Therefore, this council declares a “Cost of Living Emergency”

Council resolves:

to declare a “Cost of Living Emergency”

As part of this Council calls on ERC’s Council Leader to contact the UK government and request that they:

- *Scrap the rise in the energy price cap,*
- *Double the energy grant to £800, and bring forward payments to the beginning of October,*
- *Introduce as a matter of urgency an energy price cap for small and medium sized businesses,*
- *Bring in a further windfall tax and extend this to include all large businesses who made significant profits during the pandemic.*

Council instructs the Council Leader to write to the UK Government to express the Council’s concerns.

Furthermore, Council calls for a cross party internal review into what the Council can offer East Renfrewshire families struggling with the Cost-of-Living Emergency – with the input of stakeholders including Citizens Advice, Food Banks, local Trade Unions and Chambers of Commerce.

Councillor Wallace, seconded by Councillor Morrison, moved an amendment in the following terms:-

That East Renfrewshire Council, in recognising the unprecedented support for both business and families provided by the Westminster Government during lockdown, welcome the anticipated measures that will be put in place by our new Prime Minister to help mitigate the effects of the Global cost-of-living crisis on its residents.

Councillor O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Devlin, moved a further amendment in the following terms:-

That East Renfrewshire and its residents are suffering due to the global cost-of-living crisis and the after effects of the Covid pandemic on economic recovery. Council notes that only the UK and the Scottish Governments have the financial firepower and fiscal tools to significantly alleviate these burdens for the residents of East Renfrewshire. However, this Council will not stand by and ignore the hardships faced by its residents.

To that end, Council calls for the creation of a cross party group to review the plans that are currently being developed to help East Renfrewshire families struggling with Covid recovery and the Cost-of-Living Crisis – with the input of the stakeholders across the voluntary sector including Citizens Advice, VAER, Food Banks, faith groups and local Trade Unions and Chambers of Commerce and notes that the first cross party meeting has been scheduled for 27 September in advance of detailed proposals to be reviewed and approved by Cabinet on 13 October.

Provost Montague then invited Councillor Buchanan to speak in terms of the motion.

Councillor Buchanan outlined that the first warning sign was late last October when the UK Government accepted that the winter of 2021/22 would be very difficult. Since then bills had increased astronomically, the Bank of England was warning that inflation could reach 11% within the next few weeks, and almost half of UK households stated that their financial situation was worse than at the start of the pandemic. Councillor Buchanan stated that people were in a cost-of-living crisis, there was a high risk of collapse in the resilience of communities; millions could be pushed into poverty, businesses were struggling to remain viable; and the economy was being pushed into recession. Action on a scale at least similar to the Covid response was required urgently, and should have happened before now. Councillor Buchanan stated that the terms of the motion were self-explanatory and that it highlighted what required to be done. Despite the Conservative amendment there were still no major announcements on what additional finance, funding or support would be put in place in order to alleviate the many items that have just been raised in terms of the cost-of-living crisis.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Merrick noted that these were not only the concerns of the Council but were the concerns of the real people and families who lived in East Renfrewshire. He referred to the large amount of correspondence received by SNP colleagues, and no doubt by other councillors, from worried residents concerned about the future. He emphasised it was not some abstract worry and deserved a lot more than the new Prime Minister's statement of 'we will weather this storm'. These were real concerns that people were feeling now. He outlined that those who have control of all the fiscal levers should be asked put in place mitigation measures to help people. He referred to the challenge of weathering the storm without running up debts for hard working people for generations to come, how to protect jobs, asking how people were going to pay mortgages in this climate and how other countries did not appear to be in as bad a position as the United Kingdom.

Provost Montague invited Councillor Wallace to speak in terms of the first amendment.

Councillor Wallace stated that he considered the motion to be similar to a sixth form debating society and was the politics of division when what was needed was collaborative working to find solutions. He acknowledged the levels of correspondence being received from concerned residents although he outlined that he had received an email from the Prime Minister advising that work would begin immediately to deliver a bold Conservative plan for Britain with three key early priorities of rapid action on energy bills to help people through the

months ahead while tackling the root cause of the energy crisis, reducing taxes and putting the NHS on a firm footing. He acknowledged the last two points were devolved priorities.

In seconding the first amendment, Councillor Morrison outlined that this was a very serious issue and would be of great concern to many constituents across East Renfrewshire and whilst the spirit of the Scottish National Party (SNP) motion was that this should be a cross party working relationship; the other streams of this were not cross party and were anti-Conservative output from the SNP, and not a serious attempt to address the problems of people. He noted the absence of any reference to the Scottish Government in the motion also noting the SNP's vast powers over Scotland in the last 15 years including powers over energy, oil and gas. He advised that new nuclear power stations would be a solution. Furthermore, he noted that the cost-of-living crisis was actually a cost of energy crisis. He advised that the SNP had focused on Scottish independence and now the country was in a situation of energy dependence, reliant on hostile foreign powers as tough decisions had not been made in the past regarding Scotland's energy supply, when the vast national resources could have been used. He noted no congratulations had been made to the new Prime Minister and highlighted that there was the intention to reverse the new National Insurance increase. He noted that 1% made a huge difference to people and highlighted the increase from 20% to 21% on income tax using newly devolved powers for those earning the medium income in Scotland of £26k. He noted there was no requirement for the Scottish Government to action anything in the motion and that he therefore did not believe that the motion was entering into cross-party discussions in good faith and as a result he would be supporting the amendment.

Provost Montague invited Councillor O'Donnell to speak in terms of the second amendment.

Councillor O'Donnell stated that in his first speech to the Council on 25 May he had outlined that both the Scottish and UK Governments were struggling to solve the cost-of-living crisis and that this remained the case. He welcomed any support through emergency budgets from either government as long as they were significant and would improve people's lives. He also noted at his first meeting that the administration was determined to support the people of East Renfrewshire through these difficult times and this was a core manifesto commitment. He confirmed that this determination had not changed and that since being elected they had been working with officials to support COVID recovery and the cost-of-living crisis. He advised that this was announced in the flexible Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery Fund (LACER) proposals agreed by Cabinet in August which would provide a boost of £1.5m to local residents and businesses. He thanked all members for support in approving this package. He advised that the next stage would involve consultation with stakeholders across the voluntary sector to deliver plans that were effective with the resources available. He advised that there was a cross-party meeting scheduled for input into these plans and constructive suggestions were welcomed as part of the process at the meeting on 27 September 2022, well in advance of plans to be presented to Cabinet on 13 October 2022. He asked members to support these important initiatives to help support residents clearly in need and to therefore support this amendment.

In seconding the second amendment, Councillor Devlin indicated his support for the comments made by Councillor O'Donnell.

Councillor Bamforth advised that in her view the first amendment was either deluded or disingenuous; that the Conservatives had been in power for the past 12 years and the country was seeing austerity like never before. She noted that the Conservatives talked of division although the biggest division in the UK that had occurred was Brexit, which had caused a lot of these problems. She acknowledged the global issues although noted that the cost-of-living crisis was not solely the result of these with Brexit causing huge problems. She responded to Councillor Morrison and noted the relationship of Mr Putin with the previous Prime Minister Boris Johnston.

Councillor Bamforth continued and advised of the connections of the UK Conservative Government and Russia. She then referred to the second amendment and highlighted that the Scottish Government had limited powers of borrowing which it had used to the maximum. The government continued to use these powers, providing the example of the increase in child payment to £25 when the UK Government removed the child payment. She outlined that the Scottish Government had also brought in rent control increases. She highlighted that the highest level and levers of power were with the UK Government and not the Scottish Government. She advised that she was therefore supportive of the motion and not the amendments as they were not reflective of the accurate position for Scotland.

Councillor Ireland advised that in response to the first amendment, Scottish Government had not ducked the tough decisions as suggested by Councillor Morrison. She advised that the Scottish Government through their budget in 2023 had allocated £3b to arrange support to mitigate the impact of the increased cost-of-living on households, which included work to tackle child poverty due to inequalities and support financial well-being alongside social security payments not available elsewhere in the UK. She noted the Scottish Government's resource spending review prioritised £22.9b for social security assistance, and the decision to uprate 8 Scottish benefits by 6% and to invest a further £10m in the fuel insecurity fund to support households' at risk of severely rationing their energy use or self-discontinuing. She noted Councillor Bamforth's comments on rent control and the £25 child payment. She also highlighted that free school meals were available for school children in Primary 6 and 7 and that rail fares had been frozen. She also highlighted that each year £700m required to be spent mitigating Westminster policies that Scotland did not vote for such as bedroom tax, the rate clause and the removal of Universal Credit.

In relation to the second amendment she welcomed the second paragraph, regarding a cross party group. She advised that she was disappointed that all reference to the issues in the country right now were removed and she highlighted that the Council should note that the energy crisis and the cost-of-living crisis were a result of more than a decade of austerity. Wage stagnation and the impact of Covid-19 required to be recognised and this was why this was included in the SNP motion even though this had been accused of representing sixth form debating. She advised of her disgust on viewing Prime Ministers Questions that an enhanced windfall tax would not be levied on large corporations who made significant profits resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that energy firms were set to make £170b in extra profits over the next two years and refused to confirm how costs to consumers would not be passed on. She advised that the Prime Minister was therefore keeping taxes low for the rich.

Councillor Lunday advised that this was an important motion as it was clear that not enough was being done to tackle the cost-of-living crisis by the UK Government. He acknowledged the appointment of the new Prime Minister and hoped that the government would now be able to take action after shirking their responsibilities during a national crisis during the summer. He also welcomed the fact that the new Prime Minister said that she was going to help although highlighted the motion touched on how the Council should go about helping people. He advised that the UK Government must bring in a windfall tax for energy companies and other large companies who had made what he considered to be obscene profits. He stated that energy support must not come at the expense of consumers. People were struggling, businesses were struggling and the UK Government needed to take action now. He noted the laughter from Conservative councillors when Councillor Buchanan had referred to the cost-of-living crisis as a Conservative crisis. He accepted there was a global crisis but that the UK was suffering much more than comparative countries across the world. He outlined that the support was too little too late as far as residents were concerned, that the future was looking bleak and he believed it was important that the Council conveyed their concerns to the UK Government.

Councillor Edlin, commended Councillor Lunday for referring to the UK as a country, Councillor Edlin stating his view that Scotland was a region of the UK.

He noted that in her remarks Councillor Ireland did not mention anything about oil or gas and highlighted that the Scottish Government had not mentioned anything about increasing the production of oil and gas in Scotland during this current crisis, which he considered was the only long term way to deal with the energy problem. He advised that unless this can be done the UK would be in fuel poverty for many years. He also referred to the “union dividend” of £2,184 per person.

Councillor Anderson expressed disappointment at the tone of the debate. He advised that the second amendment outlined what was needed and that both the UK and Scottish Governments had the firepower and fiscal powers to alleviate the burdens facing people.

He stated that the second paragraph of the second amendment outlined that cross party working was needed and it was clear that this was going to be a challenge given the discussions. He advised that the people of East Renfrewshire listening would be disappointed at the tone of the debate and that Elected Members should try to rise above party politics.

Councillor Pragnell advised that she would be supporting the second amendment, and that all parties should be getting round the table to address the crisis. She noted that both governments need to take responsibility for the crisis and she would be supporting the amendment to put the people of East Renfrewshire first instead of bickering over party politics.

Councillor Cunningham advised that an announcement was anticipated the following day to address the energy crisis. It was understood that this was based on borrowing, leading to more debt, when there were other options available. Failure to use these meant that future generations would therefore be paying for this.

At this stage, Provost Montague invited Councillor Buchanan to sum up.

Councillor Buchanan noted that there have been some interesting comments made including that from Councillor Edlin who believed Scotland to be a region of the UK.

He advised that in terms of bickering and the tone of the debate, he noted that he did not see this as bickering but that residents in East Renfrewshire and across the UK had been suffering and have been for some considerable time where the only bickering has been within the Conservative party. He advised that this was a disgraceful way to be behaving as this crisis was getting worse on a daily basis. He advised in terms of the comments made that he had some sympathy with the second amendment although the difficulty was that it did not recognise that the Scottish Government has used all of its fiscal powers and even within these fiscal powers, they have a limited budget. He advised that the funding available to the Scottish Government had been impacted by the current interest rates therefore the current budget settlement that Scotland received was £1.7b worse than it would have been should interest rates and the level of inflation have stayed at around 2%. The £1.7b was therefore money taken out of the recent talks in pay negotiations, in addition to which it could be supporting people now to a far greater extent than had been possible.

He referred to the restrictions on the Scottish Government relative to borrowing which restricted its ability to respond to the current challenges and the second amendment did not address this.

He outlined that people in Scotland were slightly better off than their counterparts in England referring to free prescriptions or the benefits uplift for families which played a key role in what the Scottish Government was trying to do for the people of Scotland. He expressed disappointment at the lack of support from the UK Government given the current circumstances, and that the country had come from the supposed recovery of one crisis of the pandemic straight into another crisis which may be even greater in terms of the financial

cost. He noted that the time being taken for decisions to be made was appalling and, referring to the comments by Councillor Cunningham, that any financial support was likely to be based on borrowing and through loans which will be required to be paid back, rather than through the imposition of windfall taxes, obscene profits that have been made by companies and in particular energy companies, over the past year.

Councillor Wallace advised that in the spirit of cooperative working he would withdraw the first amendment. The Democratic Services Manager advised that for an amendment to be withdrawn the agreement of both the proposer and seconder as required. Councillor Morrison agreed to the withdrawal of the first amendment.

Thereafter on the roll being called, Councillors Bamforth, Buchanan, Ireland, Lunday, Macdonald and Merrick voted for the motion. Councillors Anderson, Campbell, Cunningham, Devlin, Edlin, McLean, Provost Montague, Morrison, O'Donnell, Pragnell and Wallace voted for the amendment.

There being 6 votes for the motion and 11 for the amendment, the amendment was declared carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION – WORKERS’ MEMORIAL DAY

112. In accordance with Standing Order 25, the following notice of motion had been submitted by Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Bamforth.

That this Council will join workers, trade unions and communities in commemorating Workers’ Memorial Day in East Renfrewshire. This council welcomes that Workers’ Memorial Day is commemorated throughout the world and whilst officially recognised by the UK Government; expresses concern that more people are killed at work than in wars every year; calls on the Government to pursue stricter enforcement of health and safety laws; recognises that a strong trade union movement is vital for workers’ rights in the UK.

This Council will therefore organise a workers memorial commemoration event every year from 28th April 2023. The Council will also investigate an official cairn to recognise the workers lost here in East Renfrewshire.

East Renfrewshire Council recognises the importance of the day, not only to remember lives lost at work, but also as an opportunity to raise awareness of health and safety at work and the key role the Trade Union movement can play in this.”

Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Pragnell, moved an amendment in the following terms:-

That it be remitted to the Civic Hospitality Committee to consider the merits and options for commemorating Workers’ Memorial Day annually on the 28th April and to consider a permanent memorial in East Renfrewshire.

Provost Montague invited Councillor Ireland to speak in terms of the motion.

Councillor Ireland firstly outlined that she did not agree with the amendment as the matter could be fully discussed and decided by the Council without remit to the Civic Hospitality Committee. She welcomed the discussion of options for commemoration although highlighted that options had already been outlined in the motion. She noted that she was saddened that the motion was not supported and that an amendment had been provided.

She explained that her political life had started as a shop steward in the print union and that it meant a lot to bring this motion to the Council. She noted that for 33 years the 28 April had been a day when those around the world paused, remembered and commemorated those who had lost their lives at work through work related injury or disease and renewed their pledge to improve workplace conditions. She outlined it was an incredibly important event worldwide and to commemorate this in East Renfrewshire would not only commemorate any workers who had died or suffered serious injury in work place accidents but would also express our future determination to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the workers in our communities

She highlighted that International Workers' Memorial Day was commemorated throughout the world and was officially recognised by the UK Government. The event started in North America in 1986 on the date the US Occupational Safety and Health Act came into effect and had been supported by UK Unions for many years. It was now a global event recognised by the International Labour Organisation and the International Trade Union movement.

She noted that all of East Renfrewshire's neighbouring councils commemorated this day, providing information regarding Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, South Lanarkshire and Glasgow City Council arrangements and was saddened that there was an amendment to delay this locally.

She noted that in East Renfrewshire Council she wanted to mention and use the platform to discuss the amazing people working for the Council who worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic and continued to do so including essential workers in the Health and Social Care partnership, cleaners, refuse workers and all other council employees who ensured that residents had access to services they required. She noted that they put themselves at risk and their commitment was humbling and should be recognised. She referred to the introduction in 1974 of the Health and Safety at Work Act was introduced in 1974 and the formation of the Health and Safety Executive following which many important regulations had been introduced through the European Health and Safety Directives through the 1980's and 1990's. She advised that unfortunately due to Brexit some of the legislation may be affected and that there appeared to be a drift towards an extreme form of self-regulation. Further Health and Safety Executive budget cuts, enforcement and inspection cuts post Brexit meant there was an immediate threat as we raced to the bottom. She highlighted that Health and Safety regulations could not be allowed to fall behind other developed economies and that is why it was important to support the motion.

She stated that that the United Kingdom was supposedly a world leading economy currently engaged negotiating trade deals with the world beyond the European Union although instead we have a very new Prime Minister reportedly currently considering a wider review of workers' rights, with 1500 European Union laws proposed to be removed from the UK statute books by the end of 2023. She referred to plans to crack down on Trade Unions and to make it harder for strikes to take place which had been criticised as a transparent egregious attack on workers.

She referred to leaked audio of the Prime Minister negatively commenting on workers in the United Kingdom and noted that Frances O'Grady General Secretary of the TUC, had stated that government ministers were threatening to reduce workers' legal rights, while attacking their ability to defend their working conditions through collective action.

She highlighted future challenges to protect workers' health and safety and asked all to support the motion to acknowledge East Renfrewshire recognised the importance of the day, established the principle tonight that each year everyone take time to reflect; not only to remember lives lost at work, but also as an opportunity to raise awareness to highlight the importance of safety at work and to remind people about the needless loss of life and that

more can be done to reduce the risk so that people are better protected at work in the future; and also to let people know about the role that the Trade Union movement can play in this.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Bamforth noted that she was also saddened that this has not been accepted. She thought the erection of a cairn could have been discussed at the committee although this should have been approved by the Council. She noted she was not surprised given the recent behaviour at COSLA where Labour and Conservatives did not agree to accept a 5% pay rise, although she acknowledged that it could be considered a moot point as it was subsequently turned down, although they had put forward a proposal of only 3.5% for Council staff. She noted that she was only aware of SNP Councillors joining the picket line to listen to workers about pay, terms and conditions and health and safety. She also noted the work of the Health and Social Care Partnership staff, refuse staff and all staff who protected residents during COVID and as disappointed that the Council not commemorate them or recognise the work that they do. She hoped that on reflection some Elected Members would reconsider and accept the motion.

Provost Montague then invited Councillor Anderson to speak in terms of the amendment.

Councillor Anderson outlined that the Labour Party had long had involvement with the Trade Union movement in bringing about benefits for workers in terms of Health and Safety. He noted that consideration of the event should go to the Civic Hospitality Committee.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Pragnell highlighted that Labour were not opposed to this in principle although it should be considered by the Civic Hospitality Committee to discuss the matter in detail.

Councillor Edlin agreed with Councillor Pragnell's sentiments on this although highlighted that he had attended two other similar memorial events delivered by the Council, UK Merchant Navy Day and UK Armed Forces Day, and noted that there was no SNP presence at these events.

Councillor Macdonald outlined that he was deeply disappointed to hear so much partisanship and he advised he was in agreement with Councillor Ireland that there was no need for this matter to go to the Civic Hospitality Committee for consideration, that this could be voted on unanimously tonight, and that he found it staggering to see an amendment that in his view had been submitted with the sole intention of defeating an SNP motion, especially when the need for collaborative politics was clear, and when this was a matter that in his view was worthy of unanimous support. He suggested serious consideration be given to withdrawing the amendment to allow for the motion to be supported fully across the Chamber.

Councillor Morrison stated that in his view the amendment did not alter in any way the original premise of the motion, that it kept the essence of the motion and highlighted using the Civic Hospitality Committee as it was intended. He outlined that the Council commemorated many civic events and the committee should be used properly and this is an event with merit which should be considered as such. As Workers' Memorial Day was already supported by the UK Government he confirmed his support for the amendment. In terms of Health and Safety legislation he advised this was last reviewed in 2010 by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat administration and that the fatality level has halved since then. He noted that one fatality was too many and that this commemorative event would raise awareness of this although it needed to be set in the context that this number is coming down.

Councillor Wallace referred to his membership of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) and that he greatly recognised the importance of his Union looking after the benefits and

Health and Safety of workers. He explained that he taught Health and Safety at college and referred to the changes and improvements that had taken place since the Industrial Revolution.

Councillor Wallace advised that he supported the motion although a degree of courtesy to the Civic Hospitality Committee was required. He provided the example that a risk assessment would be required for where the cairn is to be positioned. He advised that if the original motion had included reference to the Civic Hospitality Committee, then it would be more than likely that the motion would have been passed. He therefore advised that he wholly supported the amendment and the reasoning behind it.

Councillor McLean indicated that he was in agreement with his party colleagues. He advised that he had sympathy and empathy with the motion having been involved in two serious accidents at work and therefore recognised the need for the proposals although also noted the role of the Civic Hospitality Committee and it should be given due courtesy.

Councillor O'Donnell stated that generally, he did believe that there was cross party support for this initiative, although he was not convinced that the SNP approach was the best way. He asked for the SNP to speak to colleagues instead of communicating through a motion which may not be the most appropriate way to achieve outcomes. He noted Councillor Bamforth's points in relation to discussions at COSLA and that this was not related to this debate and questioned why the matter had not been raised when the SNP councillors had been part of the Administration. He advised that the best place for dialogue to continue was at the Civic Hospitality Committee and that there would be support within this committee and work could be undertaken with officers to reach a decision that everyone was in agreement with. He therefore confirmed his support for the amendment.

Councillor Buchanan raised concern of some of the points made, in particular Councillor Edlin's claim of non-attendance by SNP councillors. He confirmed that he had attended events on a regular basis and outlined that it was unfortunate that events the week prior took place when he and the Leader were in attendance at a COSLA meeting regarding the pay dispute otherwise he would have been present. He rejected Councillor Edlin's claims and advised that SNP councillors had attended these events over the years. He expressed surprised that the motion had been shortened in the amendment and noted that the Council should be able to pass the motion, with cross party support and then for this to be passed to the Civic Hospitality Committee with the instruction contained within the motion. He suggested that in his view the Civic Hospitality Committee did not have the decision making powers on this item, that he was disillusioned by some of the comments made, and that the motion had been proposed in good faith and that the amendment did a disservice to many who had been injured or killed at work.

Councillor Merrick advised that as a member of the Trade Union for many years it was extremely disappointing to witness the discussion tonight where people seem to be in agreement but unable to say it.

Councillor Cunningham was then heard in support of proposals for the matter to be dealt with by the Civic Hospitality Committee.

At this stage, Provost Montague invited Councillor Ireland to sum up.

Councillor Ireland stated that she was disappointed at the amendment.

She noted Councillor Edlin's comments and gave him the benefit of the doubt as a new councillor and noted over the last five years she had attended numerous events. She explained that her grandfather was in the Merchant Navy and that it gave her great pleasure

to attend these events. She further noted that from the discussion it seemed there as general agreement but that the amendment as simply to prevent an SNP motion being passed. The timing of the motion as down to current circumstances and the attacks on workers' rights and from the time spent with workers on the picket line. She thought that the Labour Party would have already considered the merits of Workers' Memorial Day and be happy to support the motion

She noted the support from Councillor Wallace regarding Health and Safety, Councillor Anderson noting the work for workers' rights that his party had undertaken although this was not evident at the meeting tonight.

Thereafter, on the roll being called, Councillors Bamforth, Buchanan, Ireland, Lunday, Macdonald and Merrick voted for the motion. Councillors Anderson, Campbell, Cunningham, Devlin, Edlin, McLean, Provost Montague, Morrison, O'Donnell, Pragnell and Wallace voted for the amendment.

There being 6 votes for the motion, 11 for the amendment, the amendment was declared carried.

STATEMENTS BY CONVENERS/REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BOARDS/COMMITTEES

113. The following statements were made:-

Councillor O'Donnell – Leader

Councillor O'Donnell confirmed that following the COSLA Leader's meeting on Friday 2 September, a revised pay offer had been made to Unite, Unison and GMB Unions. As a result of this offer the unions collectively agreed to suspend strike action while they consulted with their members with the recommendation to accept. He advised that this was tentatively good news and thanked all members of staff for observing the strikes that did occur with mutual respect.

Councillor Pragnell – Convener for Community Services and Community Safety

Councillor Pragnell advised that the previous week the Board of the Leisure Trust had considered the final accounts for the Trust's financial year ending March 2022. After what was again a very testing year with Covid and the various restrictions on the Trusts' core activities, she noted it was a great tribute to the hard work and skill of the leisure trust staff that they had finished with an operating surplus for the year of over three-quarters of a million pounds.

She outlined that a new four-year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy which the Trust was commissioned to write on behalf of the Council was discussed, and she welcomed bringing this to Council in future for consideration.

She advised that the recovery of culture and leisure continued month on month, with the continued recovery of swimming, gyms and fitness and with the latter continuing to recruit new members, especially amongst younger people who now comprised almost a fifth of the total membership following the Trust's revised membership offer in response to the experiences of young people during lockdown.

She highlighted that libraries continue to increase physical visits now that events had been reinstated, and social bookings were once again being taken for community halls.

Councillor Pragnell also reported that Live Active (GP Referrals) had recovered to higher than pre-Covid Levels, with a positive impact on residents.

In relation to the Summer Holiday Programme, it was reported that 302 individuals participated. Over 200 children living in poverty were supported to participate in the programme at no cost, including 77 participants who were referred onto the programme by Social Work services. In the current economic climate it is worth noting that 84% of parents reported that having a meal provided was helpful for their families, while their children tried something new to them, made new friends, and seemed more eager and confident to try new activities. 100% had fun and enjoyed themselves!

Councillor Pragnell – Convener for Social Work and Health

Councillor Pragnell reported on the recent meeting of the Integration Joint Board on 10 August.

The IJB had been advised were advised that although the Strategic Inspection for Children and Young People at Risk of Harm in East Renfrewshire report was not published at the time of the meeting the expected result as positive. This was confirmed on 16 August when the report had been published and a grade of 'Excellent' for Quality Indicator 2.1 – Impact on Children and Young People had been awarded. No significant areas for improvement had been identified and it was noted that the grading was the top of the quality indicator scale used by the Care Inspectorate and awards this for "Outstanding or Sector Leading" service delivery.

The Chief Financial Officer had presented the revenue monitoring report which provided a comprehensive overview of the current projected overspend for the year of just over half a million pounds and that the full year impact of the increases in complexity and demand were now being seen.

She advised that there was an update on the Health and Social Care Partnership Recovery and Renewal Programme, that the IJB heard from the Clinical Director on the impact of the Primary Care Improvement Programme in East Renfrewshire, considered a number of governance papers and annual reports around Records Management, IJB Complaints and Category 1 responders, and finally considered a presentation by the Chief Officer on the National Care Service.

Councillor Anderson – Convener for Education, Culture and Leisure

SQA Results 2022

Councillor Anderson referred to the oral statement on the 2022 SQA examination results given at the meeting of the Education Committee on 25 August.

The committee noted that secondary staff had worked tirelessly to ensure that all learners experienced high quality learning and teaching throughout the year despite the ongoing impact and disruption of COVID, ensuring that any learning loss was overtaken and that young people were well prepared for the national

examinations. Secondary staff provided a range of additional support to learners including supported study, Easter school and Saturday classes.

The committee had been pleased to hear about the very strong 2022 which Councillor Anderson summarised.

As Convener, he thanked all pupils, parents and staff for their vital contributions throughout another challenging year for all in education, and congratulated them all on their excellent achievements.

Report of a joint inspection of services for children and young people at risk of harm in East Renfrewshire

Councillor Anderson acknowledged the recently published report by the Care Inspectorate of services for children and young at risk of harm in East Renfrewshire. The inspection highlighted a number of key strengths including the strong partnership working, enduring and trusting relationships and the way children and young people were well supported to exercise their rights to make real choices in matters that were affecting their lives.

He highlighted the sector leading evaluation with services in East Renfrewshire evaluated as excellent and provided congratulations to all involved.

The Council noted the statements.

APPOINTMENTS

114. Provost Montague sought nominations for the undernoted positions:-

(i) Nomination of Veterans' Champion

Councillor Wallace, seconded by Councillor Morrison, moved that Councillor Campbell be appointed Veterans' Champion. Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Buchanan, moved as an amendment that Councillor Macdonald be appointed Veterans' Champion.

On the roll being called, Councillors Anderson, Campbell, Cunningham, Devlin, Edlin, McLean, Provost Montague, Morrison, O'Donnell, Pragnell and Wallace voted for the motion. Councillors Bamforth, Buchanan, Ireland, Lunday, Macdonald, and Merrick voted for the amendment.

There being 11 votes for Councillor Campbell and 6 votes for Councillor Macdonald, Councillor Campbell was appointed Veterans' Champion.

(ii) Members of COSLA Boards

The Council approved the following appointments:-

Health and Social Care Policy Board – Councillor Pragnell

Children and Young People Policy Board – Councillor Anderson

Environment and Economy Policy Board – Councillor O'Donnell

Community Wellbeing Board – Councillor Devlin

PROVOST'S ENGAGEMENTS

115. The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships, providing details of civic engagements attended and civic duties performed by Provost Montague since the meeting on 29 June 2022.

Provost Montague having thanked Deputy Provost Campbell for attending a meeting in her absence. The Council noted the report.

REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

116. The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive, providing an update on the previous reviews of the governance of the Council, and considering options for conveners' remits and alternative options to the Cabinet system.

Councillor O'Donnell thanked the Chief Executive and the Democratic Services Manager for the report, noted that a review of the governance structure last took place in 2010 and stated that with a new administration it was appropriate for a review.

He outlined the recommendations of the report and advised that the paper outlined the background to the introduction of the Cabinet model in East Renfrewshire. He advised that a review of the Cabinet model took place in 2001 and 2010 where no change was recommended. The report outlined that the size of the Cabinet had not been consistent over the years and had varied depending on circumstances. He noted that there was no uniform approach across Scotland, with 25 local authorities operating a committee model and 7 operating a Cabinet model and highlighted that there were local variations even within these structures.

The report proposed a new division of responsibilities for the Leader and Conveners with new titles for two of the three conveners.

The report also outlined possible changes in governance structure in the event the Council were minded to revert to a traditional committee model, however the report's recommendation was to remain with a Cabinet structure.

The report also suggested that the terms of reference of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee should be reviewed. This was recommended by the committee pre-election as part of the self-evaluation it had carried out, these findings being endorsed by the new committee in June.

Councillor Ireland thanked the team for the report and advised that she would prefer a committee model although understood why there was a recommendation for a Cabinet model given the small size of the Democratic Services team. She noted the Audit and Scrutiny Committee evaluation and the terms of reference review to ensure they remain fit for purpose including their involvement in the call in process. She therefore sought confirmation if there would be a change to the call in process and the Audit and Scrutiny Committee's involvement in this process as part of the review as this process currently works well. She raised concerns about the dilution of decision making given the voting taking place at the meeting tonight.

In reply the Democratic Services Manager confirmed that there was not an intention for there to be a change to the call in process and that this would only have been the case if moving to a committee structure. He outlined that the review would look at the terms of reference to ensure these were fit for purpose. He advised that any changes to the terms of reference

would ultimately be a change to the Scheme of Administration and that this would need to come back to the Council for approval.

Councillor Morrison, as the Chair of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, advised that this was not the first time that the SNP had brought into question the validity and effectiveness of a committee of the Council and this did not serve the Council well. He referred to Councillor Ireland's comments previously at the committee and had advised her at the time that any councillor should do what they considered necessary to ensure that the Code of Corporate Governance was being upheld. He noted that should Councillor Ireland wish to write to Audit Scotland then she should do so.

Councillor Edlin noted that the Chair and the Vice Chair were not members of the Administration Group.

The Council: -

- (a) approved the new Conveners' remits;
- (b) agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to make minor adjustments to the Conveners' remits in the light of operational experience;
- (c) agreed to continue with the operation of a Cabinet model of governance; and
- (d) agreed that the Chief Executive review the terms of reference of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

ANNUAL STATEMENT ON ADEQUACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNANCE, RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

117. The Council considered and noted a report by the Clerk of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee which provided a statement on the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance, risk management and internal control systems operating within the Council during 2021/22.

PROVOST

MINUTE
of
LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 13 September 2022.

Present:

Councillor Paul Edlin (Chair)
Councillor David Macdonald

Councillor Andrew Morrison

Councillor Edlin in the Chair

Attending:

Jacqui McCusker, Senior Solicitor; Brian Kilpatrick, Civic Government Enforcement Officer; Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer; and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Chief Inspector Graeme Gallie and Sergeant Lisa Campbell, Police Scotland.

Apologies:

Councillor Angela Convery (Vice Chair) and Provost Mary Montague.

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

118. Prior to the start of the meeting the committee observed a minute's silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

119. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR GRANT

120. The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement in relation to an application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence (Agenda Item 3 refers).

The applicant was present.

Chief Inspector Gallie and Sergeant Campbell representing the Chief Constable, who had made a late objection in respect of the application, were also present.

The report explained that in determining the application it would be for the committee to decide if it wished to consider the late objection submitted by the Chief Constable and, if so, what weight it wished to attach to the objection and its relevance to the type of licence being applied for.

Following discussion, the committee agreed to consider the late objection and copies were provided for Members.

Sergeant Campbell was heard in respect of the objection submitted by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from Members, in the course of which she advised that one of the matters referred to in the Police letter had been dealt with and was no longer relevant to the application.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application and in response to questions from Members.

The committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the committee, having taken account of the submission made by the applicant, his previous convictions, their seriousness and relevance to the licence being applied for, and also having taken account of the objection by the Chief Constable, agreed that the application be granted for a period of one year, subject to standard terms and conditions.

PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION

121. The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer - Legal & Procurement in relation to a request for suspension of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence under Paragraph 11(2)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Agenda Item 4 refers). The applicant had not been invited to the meeting.

Chief Inspector Gallie and Sergeant Campbell representing the Chief Constable, who had requested the suspension, were present. It was reported that the Chief Constable had requested the suspension on the grounds that the licence holder was no longer a fit and proper person to be the holder of a licence, and requested the immediate suspension of the licence in terms of Paragraph 12(1) of the Schedule on the grounds that the carrying on of the activity to which the licence relates was likely to cause a serious threat to public order or public safety.

The report explained that in determining the application it would be for the committee to decide what weight it wished to attach to the request by the Chief Constable and its relevance to the type of licence held.

Sergeant Campbell was heard in respect of the request for suspension by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from Members.

The committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the committee, having taken account of the request for suspension by the Chief Constable, agreed not to suspend the licence in terms of Paragraphs 11(2)(a) and 12 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 14 September 2022.

Present:

Councillor Betty Cunningham (Chair)	Councillor Jim McLean (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Paul Edlin	Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Annette Ireland	Councillor Andrew Morrison
Councillor Chris Lunday	

Councillor McLean in the Chair

Attending:

Julie Nicol, Planning and Building Standards Manager; Alan Pepler, Principal Planner (Development Management); John Drugan, Senior Planner; Ian Walker, Senior Planner; Siobhan Wilson, Solicitor; John Marley, Principal Traffic Officer(*); Steven Reid, Policy, Planning and Performance Manager, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership(*); Sharon McIntyre, Committee Services Officer and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

(* indicates remote attendance)

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

122. Prior to the start of the meeting the committee observed a minute's silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

123. No declarations of interest were intimated.

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

124. The committee considered reports by the Director of Environment, on applications for planning permission requiring consideration by the committee.

It was agreed that the applications be determined as indicated at Appendix 1 accompanying this Minute, particular reference being made to the following:-

- (i) 2021/0232/TP - Erection of residential care and nursing home with associated car parking, formation of new access, infrastructure and landscaping at Greenbank Church, 36 Eaglesham Road, Clarkston.

The Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that the application was one of three related applications at the site of Greenbank Church being presented to the committee at the meeting.

It was noted that application 2021/0405/TP was for the erection of an extension to the existing church building to create new church halls and community facilities, creation of a new vehicular and pedestrian entrance from Mansfield Road, and formation of 5 new accessible parking bays. Erection of a detached two storey dwellinghouse with driveway access to Mansfield Road, while application 2021/0407/LBC for Listed Building Consent was for the erection of an extension to the existing church building to create new church halls and community facilities, demolition of adjoining 1990's extension, creation of new openings to the external fabric linking the church to the new extension and creation of a new fire escape.

The Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that the applications all required to be assessed separately, and that Greenbank Parish Church was the applicant for application 2021/0405/TP and a joint applicant for 2021/0232/TP.

He outlined that Greenbank Parish Church had advised that the release of the land for sale by the church for application 2021/0232/TP would enable this development. It would also complete the funding required for 2021/0405/TP which would be an important community resource.

He summarised the consultation responses outlined in the report from both Clarkston Community Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

It was noted that a total of 112 representations had been received, with 63 in objection and 49 in support and that the report had commented on 109 representations due to the receipt of 3 representations after the publication of the report. An assessment of those matters raised in relation to all 112 representations was contained in the report.

It was noted that with regard to fire safety concerns, this would be considered by building standards and was therefore not a material planning consideration. The loss of community buildings and reference to Policy D12 was noted, and in this regard it was recognised that the community facilities would be lost through demolition. He clarified that it was not possible to legally connect application 2021/0232/TP and 2021/0405/TP although it was recognised that Greenbank Parish Church proposed to replace and enhance community facilities as part of their wider proposals and therefore there was no conflict with Local Development Plan 2 in this respect.

He then outlined the proposals in full, advising that the main issues outlined in the report included design and visual impact, impact on neighbouring properties, impact on the listed building and its setting; impact on green space, trees and protected species, roads and drainage and specialist residential and supported accommodation. He then shared slides and outlined the site location, existing and proposed site and landscaping plans, street view, comparison of the existing buildings and the proposed development, and proposed elevations and sections.

Councillor Ireland noted the important role of the church in the community. She enquired whether the care home would be incongruous to the area and whether it would sit forward of the listed building. She sought confirmation of whether this was a joint application. She noted that it was good that the balconies had been removed and sought confirmation of this and enquired whether any further changes had taken place.

Councillor Ireland also noted concerns regarding car parking and that the road was incredibly busy with car parking taking place on both sides. She noted that two car

parking spaces had been removed and enquired regarding where the buildouts would be and where two car parking spaces were being removed from. She expressed concerns about the visibility splays and how the creation of access would impact the parking opposite. She noted that this was already a difficult area to park and that accidents and near accidents occurred a lot. She noted that 16 spaces were detailed and enquired as to how many spaces were required per resident. She asked how many staff would be employed, where they would park and how many spaces were allocated for visitor parking. She noted the previous care home application and assisted living accommodation before the committee at Drumby Crescent which had 55 spaces allocated, and was concerned by the low figure of 16 car parking spaces included in this application.

In reply, the Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that the building was assessed as to whether it was incongruous and as a result there was a substantial change to the length however it was set back significantly and landscaped to the front of the site. The elevations could be interpreted to show the care home building to be incongruous however the applicant had used the land where they can, building into the slope and at the Planning Authority's request had introduced measures to improve the visual impact. He agreed there was a major change visually although given the urban context this was a development that would be expected. He confirmed that this was a joint application by the care home developer and Greenbank Parish Church.

The Principal Traffic Officer (Environment), advised that the Roads Department went back to the applicant regarding the number of car parking spaces and the visibility splays. He noted that the guidelines normally used could not be referenced for this site and therefore the applicant employed the company AECOM to produce a report. He shared plans of the proposed parking and outlined the build out and improved access created further north on Eaglesham Road. He advised two on street car parking spaces had been included. He shared the figures outlined in the AECOM report relating to other care homes in the area and advised that the car parking was on a par with the parking provided at these care homes.

Councillor Morrison noted that the AECOM report was not included in the meeting papers in response to which the Planning and Building Standards Manager advised that the AECOM report can be viewed on the online planning system through accessing the application link detailed in the meeting papers.

Councillor Morrison having enquired as to the location of the comparable sites, were they urban, rural or suburban. The Principal Traffic Officer (Environment), advised that the active travel and sustainable transport links to the proposed site were good and therefore this allowed for the number of parking spaces to be reduced. It was also clarified that a maximum parking standard was detailed although not a minimum.

Councillor McLean enquired about the ratio of the car parking spaces in comparison to the size of the care home. He also noted the number of residents, staff and visitors that would be attending the care home, that the bus service in Eaglesham was not reliable and that the area was already extremely busy. He advised of the current road safety issues at the site with school children and no road crossings, and that parking was already extremely difficult. He noted that the report outlined the peak times of between 8am and 9am in the morning and 5pm and 6pm at night for use of the 16 car parking spaces by the 100 staff and visitors. He stated that it was more than likely that the busiest visiting times would be in the afternoon at the same time the children were coming out of the school, with the road busy and that this would be a difficult situation. He also sought confirmation of why AECOM and the applicant provide a reduced figure of car parking spaces when the roads department had outlined a maximum of 35 car parking spaces.

The Principal Traffic Officer (Environment), explained that the applicant would claim that as they were providing off street car parking this would then not impact on the existing activity on the public road. In terms of the visiting of residents this should take place throughout the day. The developer required to make a case for a reduction in the number of car parking spaces for consideration by the roads department. With regards to staffing the report provided by the applicant outlined that their research details that staff would use more active and sustainable transport options.

Councillor Cunningham highlighted the busy nature of the street, the lack of parking currently and the impact of the road safety issues from the children attending the school and nursery. She noted that 16 car parking spaces was not adequate for the size and requirements of the care home. She also raised concern whether the care home would be fully occupied.

Councillor Morrison echoed Councillor Cunningham's points and noted that the report refers to Scottish Planning Policy and the requirement to support socially sustainable places and that having an underused care home would not be socially sustainable.

Councillor McLean noted the objection received from the HSCP on the grounds of over provision and invited the Policy, Planning and Performance Manager, HSCP to comment on this. In reply, he advised that the HSCP based concerns on overprovision in East Renfrewshire on high levels of vacancies and that this had been apparent for a number of years. Additionally there were concerns regarding the cost to the HSCP of health care provision and general demand for other services linked to the care home. The HSCP were not satisfied that the level of care home development in the area is reflective of the demand and would result in an oversaturation of the market therefore impacting on the viability of care homes and the residents staying there.

Councillor Edlin noted that he did not feel there would be inadequate parking although sought clarification of the economic viability. The Planning and Building and Standards Manager advised that each application should be considered on its own merits, and noted that economic viability was not a material consideration although Greenbank Parish Church had provided further information in their supporting statement.

Councillor Morrison also highlighted the parking issues at the site. He noted the National Roads Development Guide guideline figure and although he did note the public transport options he did not feel reducing the guideline figure by more than fifty percent was appropriate.

Councillor Ireland supported this view and sought confirmation as to why developer contributions were not sought for this development. In reply, the Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that development contributions are not currently required for care home developments.

Provost Montague noted the concerns raised by the HSCP in relation to overprovision and the on cost for health care provision and the services, she noted this was also raised by Clarkston Community Council. When there is a deficit in tree removal, she sought clarification as to why trees were then not proposed to be replanted at the site or at another location if this was not possible.

The Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that 18 trees would be removed and 26 planted and therefore there was not a deficit and that for this application there was not an issue regarding sustainable development.

The Planning and Building Standards Manager, advised that for the next Local Development Plan HSCP colleagues would be consulted to identify whether physical

infrastructure could be linked to developer contributions. She highlighted that the on cost of care was not a material consideration and that given the type of application, it would not be applicable for other forms of development contributions.

Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Morrison moved to refuse the application due to the objection from the HSCP, road safety and parking issues including that the reduction in the number of car parking spaces by more than fifty percent of the National Roads Development Guide guideline figure was not appropriate, that the care home is a four storey building, and that there is non-compliance with Strategic Planning Policies supporting economically and socially sustainable places.

There being no further comments the committee agreed that the application be refused for the reasons as stated.

Councillor Edlin abstained.

- (ii) 2021/0405/TP - Erection of an extension to the existing church building to create new church halls and community facilities, creation of a new vehicular and pedestrian entrance from Mansefield Road, and formation of 5 new accessible parking bays. Erection of a detached two storey dwellinghouse with driveway access to Mansefield Road at Greenbank Church, 36 Eaglesham Road, Clarkston.

The Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that a total of 20 representations had been received, with 15 in objection and 5 in support and that the matters raised were outlined in the report. He advised that the main issues raised relate to the negative impact on the listed building, visual impact, loss of open space, traffic congestion, loss of privacy and overshadowing, loss of trees and noise, light and dust pollution. No objections had been received from consultees.

He then outlined the proposals in full and shared slides which showed the site location with a 3D view of the proposed scheme, the elevations of the house and the proposed east elevation.

Councillor Cunningham sought confirmation of the number of car parking spaces. In reply, the Principal Planner (Development Management) confirmed that there were five spaces.

Councillor Ireland noted the strong objection from Clarkston Community Council with regard to application 2021/0232/TP however for this application overall they supported the proposal. She welcomed the good design and advised that she wholeheartedly supported the application. She noted from the report 'that it is considered that the proposed new halls and facilities will improve the existing community facilities as well as allow for the range of activities to be extended, thereby promoting social and community benefits within the area.' She advised that she was in agreement with this statement and that the church was at the heart of the community and is already well used, she welcomed the plans.

Councillor Edlin was in agreement with Councillor Ireland's comments and noted that as there was no change of use there would not be an impact on car parking issues.

Councillor Ireland noted that there were five car parking spaces and that this was also her understanding.

Councillor McLean noted that Clarkston Community Council 'highlight some concern regarding the new vehicular access and lack of parking, but notes the parking situation is no different to the current situation.'

Provost Montague noted that the report outlines that 'the proposal will result in the loss of 39 trees of mix size and condition.' whilst noting other trees would be retained. She highlighted the positive impact of trees on the environment and wished to confirm the deficit for this application and if there was an option for trees to be planted at another location to compensate for this loss.

Councillor McLean noted that the report outlined that 'should the Planning Authority be of a mind to approve the application, a condition can be attached to the planning permission ensuring adequate replanting and retention of remaining trees. Consequently, it is considered that the proposal raises no significant issues in terms of loss of trees.'

The Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that a condition regarding trees was proposed and if necessary this could be updated to outline that there should be no overall deficit to the loss of trees. Provost Montague confirmed that she would welcome this.

Councillor Cunningham sought confirmation that the proposals could be accommodated at the site. The Principal Planner (Development Management) shared a slide of the site plan and outlined the location of the proposals at the site. He noted the improved access and parking at the site, as currently there is no formal parking. Councillor Cunningham sought confirmation that the development would not lead to an increase in off-road parking. In reply, the Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that there would be no change to the current situation.

The Planning and Building Standards Manager confirmed that the position is unchanged therefore the number of car parking spaces currently available is the same as the number of car parking spaces proposed. The access would be improved and the car parking more formally presented in the new scheme.

Councillor Cunningham sought confirmation of the number of electric vehicle charging points. In reply, the Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that no information had been submitted although Condition 12 seeks confirmation on this matter.

Councillor McLean, proposed that the application for planning permission be approved subject to the conditions outlined in the report and an update to Condition 5 to include that the deficit in the loss of trees would be compensated by replanting. This was seconded by Councillor Ireland.

There being no further comments the committee approved the application for planning permission subject to the conditions as outlined in the report with the exception of Condition 5 which was to be updated to confirm that there was to be no overall deficit in terms of any trees removed and replaced on site.

- (iii) 2021/0690/TP - Alterations to approved housing layout (2016/0712/TP) comprising substitution of house types (58 units) and amendments to roads layout and associated works at Maidenhill Pod E, Newton Mearns, East Renfrewshire.

The Senior Planner outlined the proposals in full and shared slides which outlined the proposed layout of Pod E. He advised that no objections had been received from consultees.

Councillor Ireland sought clarification whether any useable green space had been removed as a consequence of these changes. In reply, the Senior Planner advised that the green space had not been removed and that Pod E is enclosed in a framework of landscaping although this had not been shaded green on this plan.

Having heard Councillor McLean the committee agreed that the application for planning permission be approved subject to the conditions outlined in the report.

CHAIR

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
AS AMENDED BY THE PLANNING ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Index of applications under the above acts considered by Planning Applications Committee on
14.09.2022

Reference No: 2021/0232/TP

Ward: 4

Applicant:

Morrison Community Care(Clarkston)Propco Ltd Kirk
Session Of
1 Cambuslang Road
Glasgow
Scotland
G32 8NB

Agent:

Shahid Ali
130 St Vincent Street
Glasgow
UK
G2 5HF

Site: Greenbank Church 36 Eaglesham Road Clarkston East Renfrewshire G76 7DJ

Description: Erection of residential care and nursing home with associated car parking, formation of new access, infrastructure and landscaping

Decision: Refused

Reference No: 2021/0405/TP

Ward: 4

Applicant:

Greenbank Parish Church
36 Eaglesham Rd
Clarkston
Scotland
G76 7DJ

Agent:

John Brown
20 James Morrison St
Glasgow
Scotland
G1 5PE

Site: Greenbank Church 36 Eaglesham Road Clarkston East Renfrewshire G76 7DJ

Description: Erection of extension to existing church building to create new church halls and community facilities, creation of a new vehicular and pedestrian entrance from Mansefield Road, and formation of 5 new accessible parking bays. Erection of a detached two storey dwellinghouse with driveway access to Mansefield Road.

Decision: Approved Subject to Conditions as outlined in the report with the exception of Condition 5 which was to be updated to confirm that there was to be no overall deficit in terms of any trees removed and replaced on site.

Reference No: 2021/0407/LBC**Ward:** 4**Applicant:**

Greenbank Parish Church
36 Eaglesham Rd
Clarkston
Scotland
G76 7DJ

Agent:

John Brown
20 James Morrison St
Glasgow
Scotland
G1 5PE

Site: Greenbank Church 36 Eaglesham Road Clarkston East Renfrewshire G76 7DJ**Description:** Erection of extension to existing church building to create new church halls and community facilities. Demolition of adjoining 1990's extension. Creation of new openings to the external fabric linking the church to the new extension. Creation of a new fire escape.**Decision:** Approved Subject to Conditions**Reference No:** 2021/0690/TP**Ward:** 5**Applicant:**

Mr Kenny Blue
Unit C, Ground floor, Lightyear Building
Marchburn Drive
Abbotsinch
Paisley
Renfrewshire
PA3 2SJ

Agent:**Site:** Maidenhill Pod E Newton Mearns East Renfrewshire**Description:** Alterations to approved housing layout (2016/0712/TP) comprising substitution of house types (58 units) and amendments to roads layout and associated works.**Decision:** Approved Subject to Conditions

MINUTE
of
LOCAL REVIEW BODY

Minute of meeting held at 2.45pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 14 September 2022.

Present:

Councillor Betty Cunningham (Chair)	Councillor Jim McLean (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Paul Edlin	Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Annette Ireland	Councillor Andrew Morrison
Councillor Chris Lunday	

Councillor McLean in the Chair

Attending:

Mark Brand, Planning Adviser; Siobhan Wilson, Solicitor (Legal Adviser); Sharon McIntyre, Committee Services Officer (Clerk) and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

125. Prior to the start of the meeting the Local Review Body observed a minute's silence in remembrance of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

126. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

The Chair advised that site visits had been held prior to the meeting.

NOTICE OF REVIEW – REVIEW 2022/06 – ERECTION OF TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION, INSTALLATION OF REAR DORMER AND ASSOCIATED ALTERATIONS. 51 MANSEFIELD CRESCENT, CLARKSTON (REF NO:- 2021/0457/TP).

127. The Local Review Body considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships relative to a 'Notice of Review' submitted by Mr James Macklin against the decision taken by officers to refuse planning permission in respect of erection of two storey rear extension, installation of rear dormer and associated alterations at 51 Mansefield Crescent, Clarkston.

The decision had been made in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation made in terms of Section 43A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended.

The Local Review Body, having considered the information previously circulated, agreed that it had sufficient information to determine the review without further procedure.

The Planning Adviser outlined the planning application and reasons for refusal as outlined by the Appointed Officer in the decision notice and the grounds for review. The Planning Adviser further outlined that should Elected Members be minded to grant planning permission, two suggested additional conditions would be that:-

1: Development shall not commence until samples of the external finishing materials to be used on the proposed development have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Thereafter, the development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details

Reason: To ensure that the appearance of the proposed development is acceptable.

2: The window shaded on the approved plan shall be glazed with obscure glass prior to the development being brought into use. The obscure glass shall be retained in position and shall not be removed unless approved in writing by the planning authority. Development shall not commence until a sample of the obscure glass has been submitted to and approved in writing by the planning authority.

Reason: To protect the privacy of the adjacent property and to prevent overlooking.

Having heard from the Planning Adviser and following discussion, Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Edlin, moved as an amendment that the Appointed Officer's decision as set out in the decision notice of 6 April 2022 be overturned and planning permission approved subject to the inclusion of the proposed conditions.

Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Ireland, moved that the Local Review Body uphold the decision to refuse planning permission for the reasons as outlined in the decision notice.

On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the motion and 4 for the amendment. Accordingly the Local Review Body agreed to overturn the Appointed Officer's decision as set out in the decision notice of 6 April 2022 and approve planning permission subject to the following conditions in addition to the standard delegated conditions:-

1: Development shall not commence until samples of the external finishing materials to be used on the proposed development have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Thereafter, the development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that the appearance of the proposed development is acceptable.

2: The window shaded on the approved plan shall be glazed with obscure glass prior to the development being brought into use. The obscure glass shall be retained in position and shall not be removed unless approved in writing by the planning authority. Development shall not commence until a sample of the obscure glass has been submitted to and approved in writing by the planning authority.

Reason: To protect the privacy of the adjacent property and to prevent overlooking.

NOTICE OF REVIEW – REVIEW 2022/07 – EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS TO DWELLING, INCLUDING RAISING AND ALTERING THE ROOF DESIGN, INSTALLATION OF DORMERS, TWO AND A HALF STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND ERECTION OF DOUBLE GARAGE. 133 AYR ROAD, NEWTON MEARNs (REF NO:- 2021/0900/TP)

128. The Local Review Body considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships relative to a ‘Notice of Review’ submitted by Mrs Jillian Nicholas against the decision taken by officers to refuse planning permission in respect of extension and alterations to dwelling, including raising and altering the roof design, installation of dormers, two and a half storey rear extension and erection of double garage. 133 Ayr Road, Newton Mearns.

The decision had been made in accordance with the Council’s Scheme of Delegation made in terms of Section 43A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended.

The Planning Adviser outlined that the first issue to consider was whether the Local Review Body wished to give consideration to the new evidence. This new evidence was an example on the same street of an application for an extension to create a two storey dwelling at 143 Ayr Road, Newton Mearns approved on 24th April 2019 (Application Ref: 2019/0006/TP) included in Appendix 7. This new evidence was submitted by the applicant and was not before the Appointed Officer when the original decision was made as outlined in the covering report. The Committee confirmed that it did not wish to include the consideration of this item in its determination.

The Local Review Body, having considered the information previously circulated, agreed that it had sufficient information to determine the review without further procedure.

The Planning Adviser outlined the planning application and reasons for refusal as outlined by the Appointed Officer in the decision notice and the grounds for review. The Planning Adviser further outlined that should Elected Members be minded to grant planning permission a suggested additional condition would be that:-

1: Development shall not commence until samples of the external finishing materials to be used on the proposed development have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Thereafter, the development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that the appearance of the proposed development is acceptable.

Having heard from the Planning Adviser and following discussion, the Local Review Body agreed that the Appointed Officer’s decision as set out in the decision notice of 28 April 2022 be overturned and planning permission approved subject to the following condition in addition to the standard delegated conditions:-

1: Development shall not commence until samples of the external finishing materials to be used on the proposed development have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Thereafter, the development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that the appearance of the proposed development is acceptable.

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of meeting held at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 15 September 2022.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)
Councillor Andrew Anderson

Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Katie Pragnell

Councillor O'Donnell, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer Legal and Procurement; Phil Daws, Head of Environment (Strategic Services); Sharon McIntyre, Committee Services Officer and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

129. Prior to the start of the meeting the Cabinet observed a minute's silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

130. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

NEC HOUSING - PROPOSED VARIATION OF CONTRACT

131. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval to apply a variation to the replacement Housing Services IT contract in order to include hand held devices and improved online services.

The Head of Environment (Strategic Services), advised that the existing IT system was outdated, manual in nature and did not provide performance management information or allow for customers to self-serve. He referred to Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project to replace the system as outlined in the report and explained that as the amount of the proposed variation (£61,200) was greater than 10% of the original contract value, Cabinet approval was required in accordance with Contract Standing Orders.

Councillor Anderson enquired as to whether a seven year contract length was typical for this type of contract and whether a longer contract period resulted in greater cost efficiencies. In reply, the Head of Environment (Strategic Services) advised that there was a financial saving with a longer contract and noted the issues associated with transferring providers on a regular basis. He advised that the contract with the original contractor was in place for over twenty years.

Councillor O'Donnell having welcomed the efficiencies that the system would provide and having heard from the Head of Environment (Strategic Services), the Cabinet:-

- (a) approved an immediate variation to be applied to the existing Housing Services IT contract with NEC Software Solutions UK Limited; and
- (b) delegated to the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) and the Chief Procurement Officer authority to submit the necessary notice for publication in the UK e- notification service under Regulation 72 (3) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Act 2015.

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000 - COVERT SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY 2021-22

132. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Officer - Legal and Procurement, providing information on surveillance activity undertaken and authorised by the Council during 2021/22; and seeking approval to the amendment of the Council's Procedure on Covert Surveillance to reflect the addition of a further authorising officer. A copy of the revised procedure accompanied the report.

The report outlined that during the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 the Council had authorised directed surveillance of 7 separate targets under 2 overarching authorisations. All addressed the sale of counterfeit goods and copyright/trademark infringement. In these cases, surveillance was undertaken by officers of Trading Standards Scotland acting as part of national initiatives.

The report also explained that following the retirement of the Deputy Chief Executive it was necessary for that post to be removed from the list of authorising officers and for a further officer to be added. Based on the seniority requirement as set out in the relevant legislation, the Head of Education Services (School Performance and Provision) had been identified. Appropriate training would be provided and he would not authorise any surveillance activity until this was completed.

The Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement outlined the background of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA) as detailed in the report and advised of the associated auditing framework.

Councillor Anderson enquired whether the Council had the resources and capability to perform these investigations or whether it was reliant on external bodies such as Trading Standards. In reply, the Chief Officer - Legal and Procurement provided a background to the working relationship with East Renfrewshire Trading Standards and Trading Standards Scotland and confirmed that whilst Trading Standards Scotland had carried out these investigations the Council had the equipment and means to do so if required.

Councillor Anderson also enquired as to whether the Council had used its own equipment previously for investigations. In response, the Chief Officer - Legal and Procurement advised that since the RIPSA legislation had come into force in 2000 the Council had used this equipment on a couple of occasions, however Trading Standards Scotland carried out national investigations therefore investigations required in East Renfrewshire were usually incorporate within national investigations.

Having heard further from the Chief Officer - Legal and Procurement, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the use of directed surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources during the period 2021/22 and
- (b) approved the revised Procedure on Covert Surveillance.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Minute of virtual meeting held at 1.00pm on 15 September 2022.

Present:

Councillor Caroline Bamforth
Councillor Paul Edlin
Councillor Katie Pragnell

Anne-Marie Monaghan
Amina Khan

Councillor Pragnell in the Chair

Attending:

Julie Murray, Chief Officer – Health and Social Care Partnership; Sharon Dick, Head of HR and Corporate Services; and Kathryn McCormack, HR Manager.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

133. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

HEAD OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

134. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Council of 29 June 2022 (Page 84, Item 56 refers), the committee took up consideration of applications for the post of Head of Children's Services and Criminal Justice.

Following full consideration the committee agreed to shortlist 3 candidates for assessment and interview.

CHAIR

MINUTE

of

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Minute of reconvened meeting held at 3.45pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 20 September 2022.

Present:

Councillor Betty Cunningham (Chair)	Councillor Chris Lunday
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor David Macdonald
Councillor Tony Buchanan (*)	Councillor Jim McLean (Vice Chair)
Councillor Kate Campbell	Councillor Colm Merrick
Councillor Angela Convery (*)	Councillor Andrew Morrison
Councillor Paul Edlin	Councillor Owen O'Donnell
Councillor Annette Ireland	Councillor Katie Pragnell

(*) indicates remote attendance

Councillor Cunningham in the Chair

Attending:

Gillian McCarney, Head of Environment (Chief Planning Officer); Julie Nicol, Planning and Building Standards Manager; Alan Pepler, Principal Planner (Development Management); Siobhan Wilson, Solicitor; Karen Barrie, Principal Strategy Officer (Affordable Housing & Development Contributions Lead); Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; Sharon McIntyre, Committee Services Officer and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

Also in Attendance:

Margaret Phelps, Strategic Planning Performance and Commissioning Manager, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership; Mr Stas Burek (*) in objection to the applications and Mr Bob Salter on behalf of the applicant as agent for Caldwell Developments Ltd.

(*) indicates remote attendance

Apologies:

Provost Mary Montague and Councillors Andrew Anderson, Danny Devlin and Gordon Wallace.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

135. No declarations of interest were intimated.

PRE-DETERMINATION HEARING – 2021/0298/TP APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION AND 2021/0334/LBC APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

136. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 24 August (Page 118, Item 90 refers), the committee resumed consideration of the applications. A site visit had taken place prior to the meeting.

Mr Stas Burek, was heard in amplification of the objection to the applications submitted by him in the course of which he highlighted points which included that he and his wife lived on the estate and would therefore be most affected by development at the site.

He noted that the proposals hinged on the restoration of Caldwell House, a Grade A Listed Building and apparently a significant example of Robert Adam's work, however it rarely featured in biographies and listings of Adam's work and it appeared that it was never completed to his original designs. The site is within a Green Belt and Council documents including the Local Development Plan2 (LDP2) recognised the need for limited development to support the restoration of Caldwell House. He advised that they did recognise the required restoration deficit although the current proposal could not be considered as limited in its greenbelt context.

He highlighted the distance from Uplawmoor and that this was therefore a new settlement in violation of Green Belt and the LDP2. He referred to Policy SG3 which stated that proposals for Specialist Residential and Supported Accommodation should be located within the urban area and be accessible to public transport networks and other services and facilities and to ensure residents did not become isolated, suggesting that this proposal failed to meet this policy. He further referred to the Spatial Objectives section of the LDP2 which outlined that development sites should be accessed sustainably to reduce the proportion of journeys made by private car. He highlighted that there is no public transport within walking distance of the estate and a private bus service is now to be provided by the care home operator, in practise this will lead to an increase in travel by private car from visitors and workers on the estate. He noted that residents should be able to lead an independent lifestyle and socialise easily with other residents, and that the proposals suggested a community or social hub, however the cafe proposed comprised of 6 tables which would not be suitable for over 170 dwellings. He highlighted the risk of the project, and that the developer advised that this was a private commercial decision, however planning policy and regulation should ensure that development was appropriate and in public interest. He noted the objection from the East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). He also raised the environmental issue of climate change and the Council's environment policies and practices. He noted that the developer seemed to be using the proposed restoration of Caldwell House as a lever to disregard local and national planning policies. He advised that he and his wife were not against development although there were too many unresolved issues with the current proposals.

Mr Bob Salter, agent for Caldwell Developments Ltd, then summed up on behalf of the applicant in the course of which he highlighted points which included the urgent need for restoration at the site. He advised that a viable and deliverable proposal was before the committee with the opportunity to save Caldwell House for future generations, to create jobs, substantially improve the local environment and properly manage the estate in perpetuity. He noted that Caldwell House was designated as a Grade A Listed Building by Historic Environment Scotland; it was an early example of the castle style design by the world famous Scottish architect Robert Adam; and was a historic building worthy of conservation for the nation. He advised that Policy D14 of the LDP2 outlined that 'The Council will seek to positively manage the historic built environment through engagement with landowners and other organisations to ensure that heritage assets are safeguarded, preserved and enhanced, have appropriate viable uses and have a sustainable future for the benefit of future generations.' He advised that this policy recognised that finding a viable use for Caldwell House was a public

duty that carried with it long term public benefits. He advised that Robert Adam's design of the northern facade of Caldwell House was not only of national but of international cultural significance, and that when restored it would be one of the most significant listed buildings in East Renfrewshire and Scotland. He advised that Caldwell House cannot be saved without some level of enabling development, various options to deliver the restoration of Caldwell House have been considered by the applicant, and through careful analysis the limited scale of a retirement village had been chosen as the most sustainable option to restore Caldwell House. He advised that this option would raise the necessary required funds with the least environmental impact. He outlined the proposal and noted that the construction of the development would be a boost for the local economy with up to 85 full and part-time jobs provided in the care home and around 200 jobs provided during the construction process, at a critical time for the Scottish economy securing jobs in this rural area of East Renfrewshire should be supported. The applicant is acutely aware of the environmental matters which are to be taken into account, and the proposal allows for mature woodlands to be managed for the first time in decades. It is recognised that trees would require to be removed to enable development. However most of these are non-native conifers with limited biodiversity value. Caldwell Developments Ltd is committed to a comprehensive woodland management scheme and its replanting proposals would result in a greater number and more diversity of trees than is currently on the site. Repairs to the heritage features on the grounds and the creation of a 5km path network for public use would be provided, and the improved estate would be open and accessible to all. Sustainable development would be promoted by the use of solar panels and air source heat pumps. Electric charging points would be available for public and private use with water saving measures in all homes. He advised that the estate of Caldwell House could be a future resource for the whole community, with a thriving new community, offering specialist care accommodation and a restored historic building at its heart and that without the proposals outlined the historic buildings would remain at risk in an unmanaged estate. He asked for support for the recommendation in the report and highlighted the positive choice of thriving new community with a managed woodland with more biodiversity, secure jobs and investment in East Renfrewshire and Caldwell House saved for future generations and the nation.

Further discussion then followed. Councillor Morrison enquired as to the level of adoption for the access road to the site. It was advised at the site visit the Council would take responsibility for all of the roads. Given the vulnerability of residents, he sought confirmation that the road gritting service would be provided.

The Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that proposed Condition 2 related to roads adoption, and clarification was therefore being sought through this condition on the roads to be adopted. He advised that if the roads were adopted by the Council the Council would assume responsibility for gritting but if they are not adopted they would remain the responsibility of the applicant.

Councillor Bamforth highlighted the length of time for roads to be adopted and noted that this could mean that the roads would be adopted after completion of the site and sought confirmation of a timeframe for the adoption of the roads. In reply, the Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that the roads adoption process was dependent on both parties and therefore a time frame could not be confirmed.

Councillor Bamforth noted the isolated nature of the development site, with reference earlier to LDP2 Policy SG3 that Specialist Residential and Supported Accommodation should be located within the urban area and be accessible to public transport networks and other services and facilities to ensure that residents don't become isolated. She noted that this would be an isolated location for residents and healthcare providers accessing the site.

The Head of Environment (Chief Planning Officer) provided an overview of the roads construction process. Councillor Bamforth noted this process and that a precise time frame

could not be confirmed for this process. Mr Salter advised that the existing access road would be upgraded to adoptable standards and the roundabout and loop road to the site would be completed in Phase 1. It was his understanding that this would be subject to a maintenance period of 12 months and then adopted thereafter, with completion estimated within a two year period.

Councillor Edlin sought confirmation that the roads would be adopted in time for residents to be living in the accommodation built. The Head of Environment (Chief Planning Officer) advised that the legislative process would require to be completed in order for this to be achieved. Mr Salter advised that the roads construction consent would be applied for after planning permission was obtained, he again advised that the roundabout and loop road to the site would be completed in Phase 1, the road itself requires to be upgraded and the roundabout built. Further development would then progress from the loop road, with further roads construction process leading to adoption.

Councillor Ireland noted the isolated location of the site and sought confirmation of whether the roads once adopted would be added to the Winter Gritting Schedule. She noted concern about the sustainability of the site and posed a number of questions relative to the proposed operation of a bus service by the developer.

Councillor Ireland also referred to the recent Drumby Crescent Care Home planning application and the weight given to the objection from HSCP, in that it is contrary to Strategic Policies 1 and 2 and noted that this report contains the same objection from HSCP although this report does not have the same weighting to this objection.

In reply, the Planning and Building Standards Manager advised of the requirements of legislation for significant weight to be placed on enabling development to preserve the Grade A Listed Building Caldwell House. The proposal had been considered against a number of considerations and the widest policy context and acknowledged the issues of environmental impact including loss of trees, traffic generation, Policy SG3 and the objection from HSCP. The on cost was not a material consideration although the impact on over provision is although this has been weighed up against the wider benefits emerging from the proposal.

Responding to Councillor Ireland's questions about the bus service, Mr Salter advised that a dedicated service would be provided which was part of the Green Travel Plan proposals, with a subsidy until the end of Phase 3 provided by the developer. It is therefore intended after this time a feasible bus service would be enabled. It is outlined in the transport assessment that a bus route would run to Barrhead and back, four times a day. He noted that an increase in the subsidy of the bus service would require a greater level of enabling development. He advised that it is hoped Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) may change their position on investing in the bus service once all phasing of the development was complete. Alternatively the residents of the care home would then decide whether to continue the bus service without the subsidy from the developer.

Councillor Ireland enquired as to the subsidy intended to be provided by the developer. Mr Salter confirmed that £80k would be provided per year and that this was without revenue income from the buses.

Councillor Morrison noted that SPT had requested that a condition was sought for continued operation of the bus service should the application be granted. He also referred to Policy D8 of LDP2 which details that sustainable transport provision options require to be provided and how could this be the case if the service provided by the developer would not continue.

Councillor Bamforth sought clarification of whether there was a GP in Uplawmoor or if there was a GP that would support Uplawmoor. The Strategic Planning Performance and Commissioning Manager, HSCP advised that the GP is based in Neilston and would require to confirm whether there was a GP in Uplawmoor.

Councillor Edlin outlined that GP cover is required for the residents and Councillor Cunningham confirmed that this is not a material planning consideration.

Discussion having concluded Councillor Cunningham invited a recommendation from the committee.

Councillor Ireland, proposed that the application be refused for the following reasons:-

- That it was contrary to Scottish Planning Policy with specific reference to Woodland, which states that ancient semi-natural woodland is an irreplaceable resource and, along with other woodlands, hedgerows and individual trees, should be protected from adverse impacts resulting from development and this proposal would have a severe adverse impact on the ancient woodland. She also noted the strong objections received from the Woodlands Trust and Scottish Forestry.
- That the proposal is also significantly contrary to the Council's LDP2. The proposal does not comply with the LDP2 Policy D3: Green Belt and Countryside around Towns (CAT) due to the scale of the enabling development in the Green Belt and associated visual impact associated with introducing an urban scale development in a Green Belt location.
- That the proposal does not comply with the LDP2 Policy D7: Natural Environment Features, the Council should be seeking to protect and enhance natural environment features and seek to increase the quantity and quality of the areas biodiversity. The Council should have a strong presumption against development on or adjacent to Natural Features, there would be an effect from this development.
- That the proposal does not comply with the LDP2 Policy D8: Sustainable Transport Networks, as discussed during the meeting with the requirement for a bus and that the isolated location was evident during the site visit, there is consequently a reliance on private car travel.
- That the proposal does not comply with Strategic Development Plan Policy 1 overall in terms of the sustainability of the proposal in reducing the need to travel, it is clear that the proposal cannot be considered as a retirement settlement that would cater for the majority of residents' needs.
- That the proposal does not comply with Strategic Development Plan Policy 1 and 2, as it cannot be demonstrated that the proposal would not have an adverse impact on existing community facilities particularly in Uplawmoor and the points raised during the meeting by Councillor Bamforth.

Councillor Pragnell seconded the amendment and added that as the Convener for Health and Social work she had real concerns about the development, she noted her points made at the previous meeting especially around GP provision and that it is not sustainable in the long term for people to pay for their beds in care homes, which has resulted in care homes failing in the past with local authorities taking on the provision of care.

There being no further comments the committee agreed that the application be refused for the reasons as stated.

2021/0334/LBC APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

137. The Planning and Building Standards Manager outlined that 2021/0334/LBC application for listed building consent comprised of the restoration, alteration and conversion

of Caldwell House, involving removal of existing render, re-pointing & repairs to stonework, new roof, new windows, new lime render to all facades, new/repared chimney stacks, selective demolitions, & internal fit-out with modern construction techniques; plus restoration of Former Keeper's House, involving repairs to stonework, new roof, new windows, new lime render to all facades, new chimney pots, & internal fit out with modern construction techniques.

Councillor Morrison highlighted that page 3 of the report outlined the description of the proposal to be the same as 2021/0298/TP. The Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that this was a typographical error on the index sheet but that the description of the application for listed building consent as described by the Planning and Building Standards Manager was correct.

Councillor O'Donnell sought clarification of the independent consideration of the Listed Building Consent application. The Principal Planner (Development Management) advised that although related to the same development proposals they did need to be considered separately and it would be correct that enabling development would be required for the proposed works outlined to be undertaken and the works within Caldwell House itself were considered to be development.

Thereafter the committee agreed that the application be refused on the basis of the same reasons for the refusal of application 2021/0298/TP.

CHAIR

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
AS AMENDED BY THE PLANNING ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Extended Planning Applications Committee - Continuation of Pre-Determination Hearing and Meeting
- 20th September 2022.

Reference No: 2021/0298/TP

Ward: 1

Applicant:

Caldwell Developments Ltd
66 Townhead
Kirkintilloch
Glasgow
United Kingdom
G66 1NZ

Agent:

Stuart Salter
Quadrant
17 Bernard Street
Edinburgh
UK
EH6 6PW

Site: Caldwell House Caldwell Estate Gleniffer Road Uplawmoor East Renfrewshire

Description: Restoration, alteration and conversion of Caldwell House to form assisted living flats and ancillary facilities (class 8), restoration and alteration of Former Keeper's House to form dwelling (class 9), construction of care home (class 8), construction of new build assisted living flats (class 8) and dwellings (class 9), selective demolitions of existing buildings, and associated landscaping, infrastructure and engineering works, including upgrade of existing site access, roads and path network.

Decision: Refused

Reference No: 2021/0334/LBC

Ward: 1

Applicant:

Caldwell Developments Ltd
66 Townhead
Kirkintilloch
Glasgow
United Kingdom
G66 1NZ

Agent:

Stuart Salter
Geddes Consulting
Quadrant
17 Bernard Street
Edinburgh
UK
EH6 6PW

Site: Caldwell House Caldwell Estate Gleniffer Road Uplawmoor East Renfrewshire

Description: Restoration, alteration and conversion of Caldwell House, involving removal of existing render, re-pointing & repairs to stonework, new roof, new windows, new lime render to all facades, new/repared chimney stacks, selective demolitions, & internal fit-out with modern construction techniques; plus restoration of Former Keeper's House, involving repairs to stonework, new roof, new windows, new lime render to all facades, new chimney pots, & internal fit out with modern construction techniques.

Decision: Refused

MINUTE
of
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 8.45am in Eastwood House, Eastwood Park, Giffnock on 21 September 2022.

Present:

Councillor Tony Buchanan
Councillor Danny Devlin

Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Owen O'Donnell

Councillor O'Donnell in the Chair

Apology:

Councillor Jim McLean.

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Sharon Dick, Head of HR and Corporate Services; and Kathryn McCormack, HR Manager.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

138. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

139. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 5 September 2022 (Page 141, Item 103 refers), the committee proceeded to interview 3 of the shortlisted candidates who had been selected for interview following the assessment centre exercise that had taken place.

Having conducted the interviews the committee, after discussion, agreed to offer the post to Caitriona McAuley, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, North Ayrshire Council.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE & FIRE)

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 22 September 2022.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)
Councillor Katie Pragnell (Vice Chair)

Councillor Caroline Bamforth

Councillor O'Donnell in the Chair

Attending:

Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Murray Husband, Head of Digital and Community Safety; Sharon McIntyre, Committee Services Officer and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Superintendent Alan Gray; Chief Inspector Graeme Gallie, Area Commander; Michelle Grant, Area Inspector of the Community Policing Team, Police Scotland; and Group Commander Alan Coughtrie, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service(*).

(* indicates remote attendance.

Apologies:

Councillors Andrew Anderson, Danny Devlin and Gordon Wallace.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

140. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

141. Councillor O'Donnell welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted and congratulated Police Scotland on the divisional awards received at Police Scotland's Greater Glasgow Divisional Awards ceremony held at Glasgow City Chambers. The ceremony showcased and recognised officers who had demonstrated bravery and excellence in policing. Several Officers from East Renfrewshire received awards:

- Four Officers for administering first aid and saving the life of a 15 year who was subject to an attempted murder,

- A Special Constable for having served 37 years' service,
- School Campus Officers received a Teamwork award for their Youth Diversionary Programme, which they have ran successfully over the past two summers.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 1 - 2022-23

142. The Cabinet then considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the police over the first quarter of 2022-23. The report also provided statistical information in relation to various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period together with comparative statistics for the corresponding period in 2021-22.

Superintendent Gray firstly offered apologies for absence apologies from Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland (Divisional Commander) who was on unable to attend. He welcomed the opportunity to address Members on behalf of Chief Superintendent Sutherland as the previous Area Commander for East Renfrewshire and introduced Chief Inspector Graeme Gallie, the new Area Commander for East Renfrewshire.

By way of introduction, Chief Inspector Gallie noted the exceptional partnership approach in East Renfrewshire and that he was looking forward to working with all partners to maximise the collective service delivered to residents and visitors in East Renfrewshire.

He advised that in relation to the crime data in the report, there were still some legacy effects of the COVID pandemic which would be reflected in the data for some time. He advised that the pandemic had altered how people lived their lives, with more people working from home or hybrid working, shopping online and using online deliveries more, and through the cost-of-living crisis there was an increased likelihood of more residents holidaying at home throughout the year. All of these factors impacted on crime patterns and demands on local services.

He advised that the COVID restrictions had ended during the quarter and preparations progressed for a summer that would see the full return of large scale indoor and outdoor sporting and music events. He noted that while none of these events took place in East Renfrewshire, taking place within the Glasgow area they could have a local impact.

The quarter had seen the launch and delivery of the summer safety campaign, working closely with partners in the Safe East Ren Group to maximise the safety of residents and visitors in East Renfrewshire.

He noted that the public health approach to policing continued to develop, with frontline officers in conjunction with partners in East Renfrewshire receiving bespoke Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) training which covered a range of mental health issues. He advised that this training was directly funded by the East Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and offered thanks accordingly.

He outlined the ongoing partnership working with vulnerable people and highlighted benefit of the early identification of those in society most in need and the signposting to Health and Social Care Partnership services. He noted the importance of the public health approach to policing and proposed that this would be covered within the Police Scotland report moving forward instead of as a standalone agenda item.

Chief Inspector Gallie, was then heard on the report. He advised that he had taken up post on 12 September and welcomed the opportunity to be present at the meeting. He outlined that the report before Elected Members was based on the East Renfrewshire Local Police Plan 2020-23 and areas of concern identified.

On reviewing the first quarter of 2022/23, he outlined that partnership working continued with the summer safety plan and bespoke projects such as 'I am Me' delivering for the people of East Renfrewshire. He outlined the successful delivery of Operation Unicorn (Scotland) involving East Renfrewshire Officers following the death of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II whilst delivering policing services with East Renfrewshire.

Chief Inspector Gallie then reported on the performance of the police against the five local policing priorities contained in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2020-23. On referring to the report, he advised that for acquisitive crime, the number of homes broken into (including attempts) was 10, 28.6% lower than the same period the previous year. This was still well below the 5 year average figure with a reduction of 47.4%. Overall, crimes of dishonesty in Q1 were 30.7% higher than the same period the previous year and 10.4% higher than the five year average figure. The majority of acquisitive crime categories had seen a fall in numbers however, fraud remained a sub-divisional priority with 66 crimes being reported, one fewer than the same period the previous year. He noted that online fraud was significant because as people moved to online lifestyles the opportunities for criminality had grown. He referred to the good work of the banking protocol in dealing with fraud and outlined examples of the good work carried out by officers in East Renfrewshire. He advised that Police Scotland continued to use specialist national resources, experts from the wider Greater Glasgow Division and partners to address this trend and support victims.

In relation to public protection, up to and including Q1, sexual crimes had increased with 28 victims coming forward, mirroring the national trend. He advised this may indicate greater reporting following high profile cases in the media. He advised that the associated detection rate for this year was 35.7% which was lower than the 5 year average, however this rate would increase due to the protracted nature of enquiries. He outlined Police Scotland continued to work with partner agencies to provide support to the subjects of sexual crimes to ensure they had the confidence to come forward and report. He outlined examples of this investigation work into these cases carried out by officers within East Renfrewshire.

In relation to domestic abuse incidents, in Q1, 115 domestic abuse incidents had been dealt with. This figure was slightly lower compared to the same period the previous year of 136 reported incidents. The number of domestic abuse incidents with associated crime was 54 with a detection rate of 49.4%. He noted that child custody or property ownership were common in these cases although not all resulted in a crime being committed. He outlined that whilst not all domestic abuse crimes involved physical violence, patterns of escalation in behaviour within abusive relationships were recognised. He noted that high priority was placed on investigating and detecting all criminal conduct related to domestic abuse as this had a potential to prevent repeat offending and potentially more serious or more violent crime. He advised that Michelle Grant, Area Inspector of the Community Policing Team was Co-chair of the Violence against Women and Girls Group and was co-ordinating a multiagency approach to reducing domestic abuse. She had engaged in external training offered by colleagues in East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership and in Learning and Development and was working closely with partners to better inform frontline officers in their investigations and approach to people experiencing domestic abuse.

In relation to the detection of drug supply offences, he advised that Police Scotland continued to target the unlawful supply of controlled drugs within the community, in line with the public health approach to policing to protect the most vulnerable in society. In this quarter, 37 drug related offences were recorded, 36.2% fewer than the previous year and 47% fewer than the 5-year average. The detection rate remained high at 94.9% which was higher than the previous year and the 5-year average. He outlined that Police Scotland continue to work proactively in East Renfrewshire with the gathering and development of intelligence being vitally important. Intelligence allowed for the creation of targeted drugs action plans involving targeting criminals and signposting users to support available from partners. He outlined examples of this investigation work carried out in East Renfrewshire.

In relation to violent crime, he noted that in a population of approximately 100,000 only 3 serious assaults had occurred in the year to date, this was fewer than same period the previous year and the 5-year average. The detection rate was sitting at 50% which was lower than the previous year and the 5 year average however investigations were ongoing. One crime of attempted murder was recorded in this period. Reports of robberies had increased to 5, 3 more than the same period the previous year; detection rate was 80% and investigations continued as well as the provision of support to victims. Assaults on emergency workers remained low at 9 with a 100% detection rate. All incidents were scrutinised daily, particularly those which had the greatest impact on victims and communities to ensure that officers identified and progressed investigations and enquiries effectively using all local and specialist resources.

In terms of antisocial behaviour and disorder, there had been a reduction in calls compared to the previous year. Calls classified as "Public Nuisance" were down by 49% with "Noise" complaints down by 3% compared to 2021-22 figures. Continued collaboration with partners in identifying opportunities to tackle all forms of anti-social behaviour was making a positive impact. This quarter saw the launch of the Safer Parks and Open Spaces campaign working jointly with colleagues in British Transport Police, Scottish Fire and Rescue, East Renfrewshire Council Community Wardens and Youth Workers. Campus Officers developed and delivered a hugely successful youth diversionary project supporting young teenagers through the summer months. Feedback received from young people was hugely positive with all reporting a sense of inclusion and reassurance, as many found themselves isolated and lonely through school holidays in particular. The Water Safety Campaign was launched with partners educating young people on the dangers of open water swimming and how to keep themselves safe. The success of this can be measured by the lack of incidents during the unusually warm summer this year.

Chief Inspector Gallie then reported on the incidents referred to in the report under the areas of violent crime, drug supply and manufacture, crimes of dishonesty, vulnerable road users, domestic abuse including adult and child protection, and young people.

There followed a question and answer session in the course of which Superintendent Gray, Chief Inspector Gallie and Inspector Grant responded to a number of questions and provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire and the crime statistics recorded in the report. These included attendance at Community Council meetings and issues regarding speeding, farm vehicles using the by-pass; damage of crops and animals disturbed at Picketlaw Reservoir, Eaglesham; burglaries within the Maidenhill development, online fraud and impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

During this session it was agreed that a Police Scotland briefing on online fraud would be arranged prior to a full Council meeting and that Police Scotland would be invited to the cost-of-living Information and Consultation Session on 26 October 2022.

The terms of the report were noted.

POLICE SCOTLAND - PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO POLICING - QUESTIONS

143. No questions were raised other than those in the course of other discussions.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2022-23

144. The Cabinet considered a report by the Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the first quarter of 2022-23.

Group Commander Alan Coughtrie firstly provided apologies for Area Commander David McCarrey who was unable to attend and explained that he was joining the meeting remotely due to providing operational cover at this time.

Group Commander Coughtrie advised that as a service SFRS was continuing good progress in implementing their Covid recovery strategy and applying business as usual where possible, whilst maintaining appropriate controls to keep personnel safe and the property and fleet portfolio with maximum resilience to meet the needs of communities.

He noted the recent establishment of a co-located Scottish Ambulance Service Response and Training Facility base at the Clarkston Community Fire Station. The sharing of this facility commenced in October 2021 with nine staff from the Scottish Ambulance Service, comprised of five paramedics and four technicians. It operated as a training and development station for the Scottish Ambulance Service, with the official opening taking place recently following postponement. He advised that this was an example of multi-agency working and training between the Scottish Ambulance Service and SFRS. He noted this move increased the response from Scottish Ambulance Service to residents within East Renfrewshire and ensured operational crews were even more aligned in their preparations and response to emergencies. He further explained that co-location allowed for colleagues to share knowledge, train together and share expertise, while building relationships through working in the same building and understanding each other's challenges. These co-locations within SFRS properties were part of the Scottish Ambulance Service demand and capacity programme which had seen an additional 540 front line staff recruited in the last financial year with plans for further recruitment in the west region. He thanked those who attended the official launch of this facility.

Group Commander Coughtrie then advised that during the reporting period crews and the Community Action Team carried out 25 community activities whilst operational crews carried out 96. Operational crews carried out 170 home fire safety visits, with 102 of these being high-risk visits. 66 post-domestic incident responses had been carried out, with 71 home fire safety visits resulting from the post-domestic incident responses. 120 smoke detectors had been fitted.

It was further reported that for accidental dwelling fires, there had been an increase in the year on year indicator of 55%. However this was against an extremely low figure of 11 in the same reporting period the previous year, with an increase of 6 incidents over the 13 week period. He advised that it was pleasing to note an overall reduction of 2% on the three-year indicator. Cooking was again the main contributor, accounting for over 76% of activity. However, it was positive to note that detection was present in 94% of the premises and the detection actuated in 100% of them giving an early warning. This confirmed a continued awareness regarding the importance of the installation and maintenance of fire detection equipment within the home.

To support reduction in this type of activity, the Community Action Team continued to be actively involved in engaging with partners and prioritised high risk home fire safety visits through the website and various partner referral pathways. Operational crews also carried out targeted local initiatives, including leaflet drops and public engagement, to identify the areas where there had been more than one accidental dwelling fire. He advised that fire service experiential training continued to be delivered to home carers within East Renfrewshire to assist them in identifying individuals at risk within homes, and that early identification and intervention gained through post-domestic incident response and partnership referral was reducing the occurrence of this type of incident.

In terms of accidental dwelling casualties he advised that it was disappointing to note that there has been a significant increase on both the year on year and three year indicators however it should be noted that this was against extremely low figures over the previous five

years. It was positive to note again that early detection had proven to be crucial in reducing injury sustained from dwelling fires. He noted East Renfrewshire fire crews were working with the residents of any affected property and surrounding properties to ensure that they had appropriate smoke detection and conduct a home fire safety check. He highlighted East Renfrewshire fire crews continue to have the highest attainment rate of this type of activity across Scotland.

In terms of unintentional injury and harm, he advised it was pleasing to note that there had been no increase on the year on year indicator and there was a significant reduction on the three year marker for non-fire casualties. He advised during this reporting period, crews attended four road traffic collisions one of which involved three casualties with serious injuries and with the remaining incidents having a total of five casualties with minor injuries.

He outlined that the Community Action Team carried out a total of 25 multi-agency engagement activities across the area during this period with a focus on road safety campaigns, including promoting Road Safety Scotland as well as engaging with local schools to deliver the Young Driver Initiative, an educational programme focussing on young and new drivers. He advised that it was also pleasing to note in this reporting period, which included a significant period of warm and dry weather, that there were no water related incidents or casualties. He advised that this showed the benefits of the East Renfrewshire Water Safety Group and commitment to youth engagement. He outlined that SFRS had continued to develop their education and response model to this type of incident and that training was delivered to over 4,000 primary and secondary pupils in East Renfrewshire during this period.

He reported that there had been a significant reduction in deliberate fire setting within the year on year indicator and an 18% reduction on the three year average, with the vast majority of these being secondary fires within grass and woodland during two periods of dry weather in April and June. Deliberate fire setting and fire related antisocial behaviour continue to be a challenge for SFRS although it was pleasing to note that the demand reduction strategy was having a positive impact on reducing activity in this area. He advised that the Community Action Team and operational crews continued to deliver youth engagement initiatives to schools, with the Protection Team providing advice to the relevant premises and local businesses. A collaborative approach continued to be adopted with internal and external stakeholders including Police Scotland and East Renfrewshire Council.

It was reported that there had been a significant reduction in non-domestic fires in both the year on year indicator as well as the three year average. He advised it was also pleasing to report that the majority were accidental and firefighting action was only required at one of the incidents. The damage to the property affected was also minimal with only heat and smoke damage. Of the five incidents attended within this period four were accidental and one deliberate. He provided further details on each of these incidents.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) increased slightly within both indicators with the majority again being within educational facilities with the cause primarily being accidental, system faults and cooking which highlighted that the majority were avoidable and were being caused by either human error or deliberate action. Human behaviour continued to drive this type of incident and even with direct engagement through crews attending incidents and the phased reduction of appliances through the UFAS strategy, the main contributors were individuals failing to follow procedures when testing alarms, deliberate activation of fire alarms and poor housekeeping causing detector heads to become contaminated. The reduction of UFAS continued to be a key priority within East Renfrewshire with UFAS champions appointed in each station who continued to engage with the duty holders at each incident to advise and support them by providing reduction guidance. UFAS champions monitored activity daily and highlighted areas of concern to the enforcement team to allow them to engage at the earliest opportunity to investigate the most appropriate solution,

whether it be mechanical, staff training, the replacement of equipment or where deliberate identify the cause and pursue through the appropriate channels.

There followed further questions in the course of which Group Commander Coughtrie provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire and the statistics recorded in the report. These included domestic fires and the impact of the new interlinked alarm systems and UFAS engagement with the Education Department. The Head of Digital and Community Safety provided an update on the position regarding UFAS within the Education Department and it was agreed that a collaborative approach was required regarding this issue.

The report was noted.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 29 September 2022.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Morrison (Chair)
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Vice Chair)(*)
Councillor Paul Edlin

Provost Mary Montague (*)
Councillor Gordon Wallace

Councillor Morrison in the Chair

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant; Alison Ballingall, Senior Revenues Manager; Gill Darbyshire, Chief Executive's Business Manager; Kath McCormack, HR Manager; Michelle Blair, Chief Auditor; Linda Hutchison, Clerk to the Committee; John Burke, Committee Services Officer; and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

John Boyd and Louisa Yule, Audit Scotland.

Apologies:

Councillors Annette Ireland and David Macdonald.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

145. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

146. Councillor Morrison reported, and it was noted, that there were no issues which he wished to bring to the committee's attention at this time.

CLARIFICATION RECEIVED ON QUERIES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

147. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 11 August 2022 (Page 96, Item 68 refers), when it had been agreed that clarification would be provided on a number of matters, in the interests of transparency, the committee considered a report by the Clerk summarising the clarification received and circulated on queries raised at the previous meeting on two treasury management issues.

The committee noted the position.

MANAGING ABSENCE

148. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 23 September 2021 (Page 1648, Item 1761 refers), when absence management during 2021/22 had been discussed, the committee considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships providing an update on the Council's sickness absence levels and its approach to managing absence.

Whilst commenting on absence data for 2021/22, the report explained that there had been an increase in both local government employee (LGE) and teacher absence, but an improvement in both compared to pre-COVID-19 figures for 2019/20. There had been a significant decrease in 2020/21 due to lockdown and the high number of employees working from home. The top reasons for sickness absence were itemised, with stress (non-work related) continuing to be the main cause across both LGE and teaching staff.

Various issues on sickness absence reporting and absence benchmarking were highlighted, including Local Government Benchmark Framework (LGBF) data available, and an error identified regarding the overall Full Time Equivalent (FTE) figure used to calculate and report the Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI) for absence for 2020/21. Rectification of this had resulted in the Council being placed 10th instead of 15th for teaching staff in the LGBF tables, and 21st instead of 24th for LGEs.

It was clarified that in 2020/21 absences due to COVID-19 had not been counted as part of the absence SPI. Absence, and the corresponding SPI, were expected to be higher in 2021/22 due to the number of employees affected by the virus and the relaxation of COVID-19 rules, although shielding and homeworking had helped reduce the causes of other absences. It was confirmed that in 2021/22 COVID-19 absence over 12 weeks or due to the vaccine was recorded as sickness absence, with those under 12 weeks recorded as special leave. Since July 2022 all COVID-19 related absence had been recorded as sickness absence.

The report provided statistical information on absence trends since 2014/15 and made reference to related issues, including Office for National Statistics (ONS) data, and that absence was consistently higher in the public sector compared to the private sector, reasons for which were cited. Based on information from the ONS, a list of the groups of employees with the highest sickness absence rates in 2021 was provided. Other issues commented on included the findings of the 2022 Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) Health and Wellbeing at Work survey.

Further information was provided on the focus placed on absence improvement and related matters, during which reference was made to higher rates of absence amongst Council employees in frontline services. It was confirmed that the Council continued to adopt robust absence monitoring strategies and focus on improvement, such as reviewing absence cases in hot spot areas and promoting early intervention to support those affected by stress. Reference was made to ways in which the Council continued to support staff wellbeing. Statistics were provided on dismissals on grounds of capability and ill-health retirements.

It was concluded that overall, absence had increased since 2021/22, but improved compared to 2019/20, with absence anticipated to increase further due not only to COVID-19, but also cost of living pressures. The Council's approach to absence management remained in line with benchmarking and best practice, and placed a strong focus on improvement, with appropriate resources and strategies in place for employees.

The HR Manager commented further on key aspects of the report during which she confirmed that SPI data was not yet available for 2021/22, that HR had provided direct support regarding 340 absence cases, and that managers were encouraged to participate in related training.

In response to Councillor Morrison who asked if working from home had impacted on absenteeism and stress levels amongst employees, the HR Manager clarified that only approximately 500 employees worked on a hybrid basis, and referred to related issues and initiatives to support them, such as *Switch off and Shift* and implementation of the health and wellbeing strategy. She added that account was taken of the different working arrangements of all groups of employees, and that stress remained a concern and area of focus.

Councillor Wallace raised various issues such as asking what the actual differences were between the public and private sector as far as absence was concerned, and expressing the view that a need remained to get to the core of the absence issue as reasons always seemed to remain why it did not improve. He asked why the problem was an East Renfrewshire one, or at least one in the public sector. The HR Manager highlighted reference in the report to the differences between the public and private sector commented on by the ONS linked to the types of roles carried out, and referred to the Council's ageing workforce and higher levels of occupational sick pay in the public sector as contributory factors. Having challenged the comments made on the ageing workforce which he stated was a feature of other sectors without the same levels of absenteeism, Councillor Wallace sought information on the financial cost to the Council of absenteeism which the HR Manager stated could be provided.

Provost Montague referred to the value of an apolitical committee such as this one and in considering both quantitative and qualitative issues. Against that background, having commented on support provided to women affected by the menopause, she asked if support was also provided to women experiencing symptoms associated with monthly periods, and if female employees had been asked what specific support they needed on this. Having referred also to support required by women affected by violence, she proposed that a presentation be made to a future meeting on a range of women's health related matters such as these and related best practice, highlighting the high proportion of the workforce who were female.

The HR Manager confirmed that a presentation could be made, referring for example to a pilot underway with Women's Aid on educational training for managers on violence against women and girls. She also explained that the Council's Equality Working Group could be asked to consider establishing a group on women's health issues, and confirmed that absence due to periods was recorded under a gynaecological category. She was not aware of this particular issue being a bigger one than menopause for example, explaining that any such issues would be dealt with locally by managers, but that she could make further reference to this in the proposed presentation.

In response to Councillor Edlin who commented that absence rates were higher than desirable and compared to the private sector, and stressed the value of finding ways to address this, Councillor Morrison referred to the Council's responsibility to secure Best Value. The HR Manager commented that the report under consideration covered benchmarking in some respects, but that additional comparative data with the private sector could be added to future reports. It was confirmed that the LGBF data for 2021/22 was awaited.

In response to a further issue raised by Provost Montague, the HR Manager confirmed that, subject to the particular role of employees, a raised desk was an option for some who were seated at them for large parts of their working day, to enable them to stand and help prevent musculoskeletal and other health issues.

Councillor Buchanan raised concerns about some of the comments made by other Elected Members about employee absence due to ill health and the sick pay they received, expressing the opinion that the statistics provided did not seem unreasonable considering the roles performed and impact of COVID-19. He thought it likely that additional stresses arising from the pandemic could come to the fore in future, and considered the Council's absence rates comparable with others over the years, in addition to which he referred to the age demographic of the authority's workforce and particular challenges faced in the public sector. He added that the workforce did a fantastic job under difficult circumstances.

Councillor Wallace, supported by Councillor Edlin, referred to the committee's particular and important apolitical scrutiny role which involved posing questions, and his preference for receiving feedback and clarification from the range of professional officers working with Elected Members on issues under consideration. Against that background, he requested that all members of the committee conduct themselves apolitically, asking fair and reasonable questions and allowing officers to address these.

The committee, having heard Councillor Morrison refer to the importance of addressing absenteeism in an appropriate manner:-

- (a) agreed that the HR Manager should provide further information on the cost to the Council of absenteeism;
- (b) agreed that the HR Manager make a presentation to a future meeting on women's health related matters, including support provided to female employees on menstrual related issues and violence against women, related consultation with them on such issues to help ensure their needs were identified and addressed, and associated best practice on support;
- (c) noted that the Equality Working Group, which was considering which related groups needed to be established, could be asked to consider establishing a group on women's health issues;
- (d) noted that additional benchmarking data on absence levels, such as compared to private sector organisations, could be included in future absence reports; and
- (e) otherwise, noted the content of the report and trend in absence ratings, supporting the range of approaches being taken to reduce absence levels across the Council.

NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE – UPDATE

149. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 23 September 2021 (Page 1649, Item 1763 refers), when a report on the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) in Scotland had been noted, the committee considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships providing an update on the NFI in Scotland and related work carried out by the Council for 2021/22.

The report explained that the Council had an effective approach to the NFI, that all related recommendations had been addressed, and that a range of relevant services across the organisation participated in this biennial exercise, the outcomes of which were reported to the committee routinely. It was clarified that the outcomes and the Council's approach were also subject to audit, that Audit Scotland would comment on the Council's approach in their Annual Audit Report, and that related work in this area was highlighted in the following item on the agenda.

Having referred to the data sharing and matching exercise undertaken throughout Scotland every two years, the purpose of the NFI counter-fraud exercise and keys to its success, the report confirmed that the Council had a single point of contact for the NFI and a well-established network of departmental contacts who were responsible for comparing their own data sets, recovery and follow up action. Mitigating potential fraud was a matter for each service area.

The report summarised issues raised in the Audit Scotland report on *The National Fraud Initiative in Scotland 2022*, following which reference was made to the 3,026 potential matches within the Council reported in the 2020/21 NFI exercise with a potential value of fraud or error of £77,499, and how related work was progressed. The decrease of 1,396 matches compared to the previous exercise was attributed to the more robust control environment associated with the new Integra Finance and Procurement ICT system.

Having made reference to other work on fraud progressed by Audit Scotland at a national level, including in relation to COVID-19 grants, the report provided further information on various initiatives with which the Council was involved, including the Fraud and Error Investigation Service and membership of various networks which circulated and shared information on potential scams and frauds. It was confirmed that the next stage was to start the 2022/23 exercise in 2023.

In conclusion, the report referred to the robust and effective approach to NFI in place which was complemented by existing fraud prevention measures, and confirmed by Audit Scotland in their 2022 report. Reference was also made to challenges of completing the most recent NFI exercise due to competing work pressures.

The Senior Revenues Manager highlighted key aspects of the report, during which she referred to the computerised techniques used to identify potential matches, confirmed that the single point of contact for the NFI within the Council was a member of her Revenues Team, and that the recovery of funds mostly related to the cancellation of single person discounts.

The committee:-

- (a) agreed to pursue publicity regarding the Council's whistleblowing arrangements, which was in line with one of its self-evaluation recommendations, regarding which liaison would take place with the Chair and appropriate officers, including the Communications Manager and Chief Auditor; and
- (b) otherwise, noted the action taken in respect of the National Fraud Initiative in East Renfrewshire Council for 2021/22.

MANAGING THE RISK OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION – FRAUD RESPONSE STATEMENT 2021/22 (INCLUDING AUDIT SCOTLAND FRAUD AND IRREGULARITY REPORT 2021/22)

150. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 23 September 2021 (Page 1650, Item 1764 refers), when a report on the Council's Fraud Response Statement 2020/21 had been noted, the committee considered a report by the Chief Executive regarding the Council's Fraud Response Statement 2021/22, providing an overview of measures in place across the Council to address anti-fraud, bribery and theft, and referring to the management of the risk of fraud and corruption. The report also provided an update on action taken during 2020/21 where appropriate, and commented on the Council's response to the Audit Scotland *Fraud and Irregularity Report 2021/22*.

The report highlighted the authority's commitment to fighting fraud and bribery, acknowledged that the risk of fraud had increased due to COVID-19, and explained that the Council followed the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) Code on "managing the risk of fraud and corruption", referring to its five key principles which included identifying fraud and corruption risks; and developing an appropriate counter fraud and corruption strategy. It was clarified that the Corporate Management Team (CMT) had approved a revised Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Theft Strategy in August 2019 which aimed to promote an attitude of zero tolerance, and that, in line with the CIPFA Code, a Fraud Statement was considered annually.

Having referred to the purpose of the Audit Scotland report on *Fraud and Irregularity 2021/22* and related key messages, it was confirmed that related recommendations had been considered in relation to practices within the Council to proactively try to identify potential weaknesses and ensure appropriate measures had been taken.

The report referred to a range of measures in place to address anti-fraud, bribery and theft, including in respect of governance; IT and cybercrime; procurement; health and wellbeing; and payment/insurance/payroll & HR, which had included reviewing the Council's Anti-Money Laundering Policy. A range of issues on reporting and potential fraud were commented on, including information brought to the committee's attention, the Council's effective approach to the NFI, and potential fraud in relation to COVID-19 payments. It was confirmed that in the event of a potential fraud or concern being identified, as appropriate, this was escalated through management, Internal Audit and Police Scotland.

The Chief Executive's Business Manager highlighted key aspects of the report, including in relation to the NFI and the committee's scrutiny role in relation to this area of work.

Councillor Wallace referred to the government funded COVID-19 grants made available through the Council to individuals and businesses which a range of officers had been involved in administering, and internal audit work in this area which had confirmed that these had been disbursed in compliance with guidance issued for doing so. He expressed interest in finding out if any sums had been claimed fraudulently, irrespective of the guidance being adhered to.

The Chief Auditor confirmed that internal audit work had focussed on what the Scottish Government guidance was, and that she was not aware of any other exercises being carried out at another level. The Director of Business Operations and Partnerships stated that she understood the economic development team had had a process in place to check grant eligibility against government set criteria, following which her service was involved in payment of the grants linked to which further financial control compliance checks were undertaken. Further in response to Councillor Wallace who sought her professional opinion on whether or not the measures to ensure claims were legitimate and related checks and balances were sufficient, she confirmed she had not checked this but that, to the best of her knowledge, economic development had had robust controls in place.

The committee, having heard Councillor Morrison confirm that a further report was to be submitted on the Audit Scotland report on *Scotland's Financial Response to COVID-19*, noted:-

- (a) that a report was in preparation for submission to a future meeting on issues raised in the Audit Scotland report on *Scotland's Financial Response to COVID-19*, in relation to which potential fraud related issues could be revisited; and
- (b) otherwise, the content of the Fraud Response Statement and work being undertaken across the Council in relation to managing the risk of fraud and corruption; and feedback provided in the context of comments made in the Audit Scotland report *Fraud and Irregularities 2021/22*.

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRESS

151. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 7 April 2022 (Page 1859, Item 1953 refers), when the position on the Strategic Risk Register (SRR) and progress with risk management across the Council had been noted, the committee considered a report by the Chief Executive regarding the most recent biannual update of the register and general progress on risk management.

The SRR, a copy of which was appended to the report, itemised key risks that required to be considered and associated actions put in place to manage these. Having referred to related operational risk registers in place, the report confirmed that several strategic risks had been amended to include additional control measures and rescored for significance, clarifying that a thorough review of all the strategic risks had been undertaken by the Corporate Management Team (CMT). In total there were now 38 strategic risks, 8 of which had been evaluated as high risk and 30 as medium. Risks evaluated as low had been removed from the SRR and would be monitored within departmental or operational registers as appropriate. Relevant significant risks which could impact on achieving the Council's outcomes regarding the work of the IJB and the Culture and Leisure Trust had been considered.

In addition to referring to risks added to the SRR, information was provided on risks that had been removed; risk scores that remained high; and risks that had been rescored from high to medium or medium to high. It was confirmed that although reports on the SRR were submitted to the committee every 6 months and to the Cabinet annually, the register was considered to be a live document and updated continually. In terms of horizon scanning, for the first time, issues being kept under review by the CMT, departments and services were itemised with a view to these being added to the appropriate service, operational and departmental registers or the SRR in due course.

The Chief Executive's Business Manager commented further on various aspects of the report during which she confirmed that the list of issues being monitored in terms of horizon scanning had been added following a suggestion on this made by Audit Scotland.

In response to Councillor Wallace, the Chief Executive's Business Manager confirmed that independence was included in the horizon scanning section of the report, and was amongst issues the CMT was keeping under review. Councillor Wallace referred to the Scottish Government's stated intention to hold an independence referendum in 2023, querying why it was not included in the SRR and a level of risk attributed to it. In response the Chief Executive's Business Manager reiterated that all risks remained under review and were included in the SRR when the CMT considered appropriate. Councillor Wallace suggested that the CMT be asked to consider adding this to the SRR and requested that feedback on their response be provided.

Provost Montague expressed concern that the risk of the inability to continue to deliver the Council's preferred, or at least an acceptable, model of 1,140 hours of free early learning and childcare, had moved from medium to high, given the importance of progressing this including from an equality perspective. Councillor Morrison highlighted the mitigations referred to in the report, as did the Chief Executive's Business Manager who assured the committee that the Education Department was looking at this issue very carefully.

The committee, having heard the Clerk confirm that any such comments made by the committee were recorded in the Minute and fed back to the CMT, noted:-

- (a) that the comments made on considering the inclusion of a risk on Scottish Independence in the Strategic Risk Register would be relayed back to appropriate officers, and that feedback on the outcome of the related discussion on this would be provided, which was in line with one of the committee's self-evaluation recommendations; and
- (b) otherwise, the development of the SRR; that it was considered to be a live document; and that it would be updated and amended by the CMT as appropriate.

LOCAL EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL MANAGEMENT REPORT 2021/22 – REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROLS IN FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

152. The committee considered a Management Report by the External Auditor summarising the key issues identified during interim audit work at the Council, which included testing key controls within financial systems to gain assurance over the processes and systems used in preparing the Annual Accounts. Under the committee's specialisation arrangements Councillor Morrison was leading the review of this report.

The report clarified that audit testing had not identified any significant control weaknesses, although some less significant issues had been noted and discussed with management to ensure appropriate actions could be taken. The key findings and action plan for 2021/22 were summarised in Exhibit 1. For example, these related to a review of user access to key financial systems, employee verification, payroll to ledger reconciliations, Council Tax refund reconciliation, Council Tax billing and benefits quality control checks.

Mr Boyd was heard in respect of the report during which he clarified that the report was submitted to the committee given its governance role, highlighted that the report focused on the overall control environment and External Audit's initial risk assessment, and clarified that amongst other things the report summarised the impact of its audit testing and audit response in terms of the financial statements to support the overall audit opinion which would be included in the Annual Audit Report which would be submitted in October.

Councillor Morrison referred to the recommendation made on Council Tax billing, highlighting that some outstanding amounts from previous years had not been pursued because data was not available due to the change of system used, and seeking clarification on when the Council would be in a position to start addressing that even though the target date for this was March 2023. The Director of Business Operation and Partnerships confirmed that the recovery work had commenced.

The committee agreed to note the Management Report and related comments made.

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Councillor Edlin left the meeting at this point.

NATIONAL EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SCOTLAND OVERVIEW 2022

153. The committee considered a report by the Clerk on the publication by the Accounts Commission of a report entitled *Local Government in Scotland Overview 2022* regarding which, under the committee's specialisation arrangements, Councillor Morrison was leading the review of the report. The Director of Business Operations and Partnerships had provided comments on the report and a copy of her feedback was attached to the report.

The report aimed to provide high level comments on the Council's position in the context of the Accounts Commission report, which was a wide-ranging one which summarised the challenging context within which local government was operating: balancing ongoing pandemic-related demands; financial pressures; and the prospect of major service reforms. Having referred to key messages within the report which were pertinent to the local experience in East Renfrewshire, comments on a wide range of issues were provided, focussing on two themes in the Accounts Commission report, namely 'Organising the Council' and 'Meeting Local Needs'. It was explained that more in-depth coverage on many issues could be found in various reports on specific topics submitted to the full Council, Integration Joint Board, Cabinet and various committees.

Regarding organisation of the Council, comments provided included those on leading recovery and renewal, education recovery, East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust Libraries, and management of resources and the workforce. Regarding meeting local needs, reference was made to the impact of COVID-19 on services and inequality, collaboration and communities. In relation to all of these, links to a range of reports, data and further information were provided.

It was concluded that the Council fully recognised the challenges outlined in the Accounts Commission's report, and was working to address these through the approaches and activities highlighted. Coverage of key issues throughout the year as part of day-to-day business was considered to provide strong evidence and assurance that the Council was well positioned across the wide range of issues highlighted. It was suggested that the committee considered the Accounts Commission report and the issues and themes therein as part of its annual work programme to guide areas where the committee would find value in a more detailed response to enable further discussion and scrutiny.

Councillor Morrison expressed the view that the Council was doing what was required of it, and referred to a helpful checklist for Members provided by Audit Scotland to assist with the review of the local position. He indicated that, in future, he intended to invite the member of the committee leading the review of any report to make some brief comments on it prior to more general discussion, whilst acknowledging that all members would be reviewing the content. He referred to some particular issues such as closer working with the third sector on which comments had been provided, the potential loss of staff or difficulties recruiting and retaining them, and issues on the horizon such as linked to the National Care Service, shortfall in the social care workforce, and the Council's COVID-19 recovery plan which he had valued hearing more about as a new Elected Member.

The Director of Business Operations and Partnerships explained that, in recognition that a new committee had been appointed following the elections, fuller feedback had been provided on this occasion than would normally be the case. She stressed that the last few years had

been very difficult, commending the Council's workforce which had taken on additional duties and worked additional hours to help address new challenges linked to the pandemic, and commenting on the related strain on employees which could be seen.

She referred to the importance of collaborative leadership in relation to COVID-19 and lessons learned on that, such as regarding forging partnerships, which was being used to face new challenges faced such as in relation to the cost of living crisis. She added that pressures on the workforce and budget concerns would continue, acknowledging the related impact on staff who were worried about that. She confirmed that data had been used to make and drive decision making and service improvements.

Against the background of the budgetary pressures faced, Councillor Wallace sought clarification on what was being done to ensure that the workforce was receiving proper communication on this given concerns they may have regarding their job security and livelihood, whilst acknowledging the difficulties faced.

In response, having heard Councillor Morrison refer to the impact this could have on levels of stress and absenteeism, the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships highlighted the concerns management had regarding their teams, that all local authorities were in a similar position, and that a lot of discussions on the budget remained to take place, including because the Council's financial settlement would remain unknown until December. She confirmed that a document was scheduled to be circulated in the next week or so to start to communicate to both staff and the public the scale of the challenges faced and the financial gap to be breached. It was confirmed that additional communications would be released over time, that public consultation on the budget would also be undertaken, and that an outline briefing on the general way forward had just been given to the Trade Unions, with whom further discussion would take place over time.

The report and related comments made were noted.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
TEACHING STAFF APPEALS COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 30 September 2022.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Anderson (Chair)	Councillor Katie Campbell
Councillor Katie Pragnell (Vice Chair)	Councillor Colm Merrick

Councillor Anderson in the Chair

Attending:

Geri Taylor HR Business Partner; Siobhan Wilson, Solicitor; and John Burke, Committee Services Officer.

Apology:

Councillor Gordon Wallace.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

154. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the Committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

APPEAL AGAINST DISMISSAL – EDUCATION DEPARTMENT – 1/2022

155. The appellant was accompanied by his union representative, Stephen McCrossan, EIS, in connection with his appeal.

Ms Tracy Morton, Education Senior Manager, appeared on behalf of management.

The appellant made his submission to the Committee and was heard in answer to questions on the submission.

The management representative made their submission to the Committee and were heard in answer to questions on their submission. Dr Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Graeme Hay, Education Senior Manager (Leading Business Change); Colin Hutton, Senior Communications Officer; Catherine McCrea, Depute Head Teacher; and Christopher Docherty, Principal Teacher entered the meeting as witnesses and were heard in response to questions from both parties and Elected Members.

Following conclusion of the management submission, and following a brief discussion between the appellant and his representative, the appellant's representative requested that the meeting be adjourned to a later date. Having taken advice from the Legal Advisor and the HR Business Partner, the committee agreed that the meeting be adjourned to a date to be confirmed.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 6 October 2022.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Anderson (Chair)	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Tony Buchanan	Dr Frank Angell (*)
Councillor Kate Campbell	Ms Fiona Gilchrist
Councillor Colm Merrick (*)	Ms Dorothy Graham
Councillor Katie Pragnell (Vice Chair)	Mr Des Morris

Councillor Anderson in the Chair

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Janice Collins, Head of Education Services (Quality Improvement); Joe McCaig, Head of Education Services (Performance and Provision); Graeme Hay, Education Senior Manager (Leading Business Change); Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer; and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Stuart Clark, Mearns Castle High School; and Anthony Hutcheson, St. Mark's Primary School.

Apology:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

156. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

CARE INSPECTORATE REPORT ON JOINT INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF HARM IN EAST RENFREWSHIRE

157. The committee considered a report by the Director of Education advising of the excellent report by the Care Inspectorate on the Joint Inspection of children's services for children and young people at risk of harm in East Renfrewshire.

It was reported that a team led by the Care Inspectorate had inspected Services for Children and Young People in East Renfrewshire between March and July 2022. The team assessed and reported on 4 statements, focussing on Quality Indicator 2.1 which considered the extent to which children and young people felt valued, loved fulfilled and secure; felt listened to, understood and respected; experienced sincere human contact and enduring relationships; and got the best start in life.

The Head of Education Services (Quality Improvement) was heard further regarding the report, advising that East Renfrewshire's Children's Services Partnership was the first in the country to receive an evaluation of Excellent for Quality Indicator 2.1. A number of strengths were highlighted including that the partnership provided strong and effective leadership and shared a very strong vision for children and young people which had continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, ensuring appropriate supports reached the families who were most in need. She added that no notable gaps in services or any significant areas for improvement had been identified during the inspection and the inspection team was confident that Children's Services in East Renfrewshire had the capacity to build on achievements and strengthen service delivery. During the course of the inspection, engagement had taken place with a range of partners including, children and young people; parents and carers; staff working in a range of services; and staff participation in focus groups. The report showed that East Renfrewshire was achieving successful outcomes for children, young people and families.

Having heard members congratulate staff for the excellent report which had been achieved as a result of a high level of partnership working between the Education Department and Health and Social Care Partnership, the committee noted the report and associated comments.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES THROUGH THE PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING

158. The committee considered a report by the Director of Education advising of progress made by schools during 2021-22 in improving outcomes through the use of Pupil Equity Funding, and the interventions used and good practice developed by schools to improve excellence and equity, and achieve positive outcomes for all children and young people during 2021-22.

The report highlighted that the Scottish Attainment Challenge had been launched in 2015, establishing the Attainment Scotland Fund which included an allocation of additional funding paid directly to schools through the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) to help close the poverty related attainment gap. Funding was allocated to schools based on the number of pupils registered for free school meals. It was reported that an additional premium had been allocated by the Scottish Government in 2021-22 to support education recovery efforts for children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and East Renfrewshire schools received a total allocation of £1.62 million. National guidance was provided annually by the Scottish Government, supported by local guidance from the Education Department, to help schools plan how to invest their PEF allocation. This guidance included a number of key principles including that the PEF must enable schools to deliver activities, interventions or resources which were clearly additional to those already planned; to involve parents, carers, children, young people and key stakeholders in the planning process; and that plans should be put in place at the outset to evaluate the impact of PEF funding. Summary performance results were provided and the outcomes for pupils were also summarised in appendix 2 to the report.

The Head of Education Services (Quality Improvement) was heard further regarding the report advising that, as part of the national scrutiny of local authority progress with the Scottish Attainment Challenge, officers worked with a link Education Scotland Attainment Advisor in June 2022 to evaluate the progress made in tackling education inequity from 2019-22. A number of key strengths were highlighted in East Renfrewshire including the impact of the

reading recovery programme on pupil engagement and attainment; improvement in attendance, pupil motivation, engagement, confidence and self-esteem; and an increase in collaborative working with other establishments, partners, parents and local businesses, amongst other things. She highlighted that head teachers had used PEF funding in a variety of different ways to support learners and almost all interventions were focused on mitigating the impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged learners. She added that the department would continue to self-evaluate its performance, share best practice across establishments and take the necessary steps to progress those areas identified for further improvement.

Thereafter, she introduced Anthony Hutcheson, Head Teacher, St. Mark's Primary School, and Stuart Clark, Head Teacher, Mearns Castle High School, to provide further information on the ways in which PEF funding had been distributed in their schools.

Mr Hutcheson advised that as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge Mission, pupils had been tasked with understanding poverty as a global issue, but also in terms of how poverty could affect their local community. Pupils had taken part in lessons and activities during Challenge Poverty Week with discussions taking place in relation to foodbanks and assisting elderly residents and neighbours. Discussion had also taken place within families about poverty related barriers which included the sometimes prohibitive cost of school uniform/equipment, school activities, and after school clubs, amongst other things. Families were provided with information about a number of organisations who could provide support during the cost of living crisis, including Family First, Money Advice and Rights Team (MART), and Work East Ren. He advised that a main focus within the school community was to ensure that school provision met the needs of all learners including by supporting the wellbeing of children with emotional and behavioural difficulties. A nurture class had been established to provide targeted support to pupils with emotional and behavioural needs, and this expertise had been developed and shared across the school community to benefit all pupils. The school was currently seeking accreditation from the National Nurture Network UK. A Principal Teacher had been employed to ensure learning consistency across the school in relation to formative assessment and to provide additional support to class teachers. In conclusion, he referred to some of the positive outcomes which had been achieved as a result of PEF funding, including a significant increase in reading attainment from a cohort with the lowest Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) average of the whole school.

Mr Clark referred to the school's aim to achieve equity by focussing on pupil wellbeing. He provided a summary of the quality of attainment and advised that pupils from all SIMD profiles within the school were achieving more than pupils from the same background across the country. The attainment gap within the school was narrower than the national attainment gap and this trend had continued into 2022. As the attainment gap across the school in general had narrowed, this allowed the school to focus on individuals who had not performed well across all SIMD ranges due to poor attendance and lack of engagement. A pupil hub had been created through the Pupil Equity Fund to focus on targeted wellbeing support and pupils were offered opportunities to take part in the "Living Life to the Full" Programme which provided them with Cognitive Behaviour Therapies (CBT) to help them negotiate their way through life. S1 parents had also been offered access to the CBT programme to help them cope with stress, and a number of parents had already expressed an interest in taking part. In conclusion he referred to some of targeted supports which had been provided for pupils, including flexible drop-in sessions at the hub; S1 breakfast club; managing exam stress workshops; and the creation of S6 hub ambassadors. He added that the school would continue to be focus on relationship building; home visits; transport support and curriculum support for those families who need it, to ensure that all pupils could engage with the learning community.

Having heard members thank both head teachers for their positive presentations, the committee noted the report as a summary of the progress made by schools in improving outcomes through the Pupil Equity Funding during 2021-22.

REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE RATE FOR EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE FUNDED PROVISION

159. The committee considered a report by the Director of Education seeking approval of an increase in the sustainable rate paid to all funded providers for the provision of funded early learning and childcare and the backdating of the new rate for all hours provided in session 2022/23.

The report explained that all three and four year old children, and eligible two year olds, had been able to access 1,140 hours of funded early learning and childcare provision in East Renfrewshire since August 2020, and explained that provision could be provided through public, private and voluntary organisations, known as funded providers. Funded providers received an hourly rate directly from the Council, known as the sustainable rate, and this rate had been in place following an independent review commissioned by the West Partnership in 2019. At that time, it had been agreed that the sustainable rate would be reviewed again for the 2022/23 session to ensure that it remained sustainable for both providers and the authority, but this had been delayed as a result of the pandemic and local government elections.

The Education Senior Manager (Leading Business Change) was heard in further explanation of the report advising that a review had been commissioned by the Scottish Government earlier this year and collaboration had taken place with colleagues across the West Partnership to ensure that a consistent approach could be reached when considering a new sustainable rate. Following conclusion of the review it was proposed that the new rate would be set at £5.69 per hour, backdated to the start of the current session, and this would be reviewed annually.

The committee approved the increase in the sustainable rate paid to all funded providers for the provision of funded early learning and childcare and the backdating of the new rate for all hours provided in session 2022/23.

WEST PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE - EVALUATION REPORT 2021-22

160. The committee considered a report by the Director of Education providing an evaluation of work undertaken by the West Partnership (Glasgow Region Education Improvement Collaborative) in 2021-22.

The report provided details of progress over the academic year 2021-22 towards achieving target outcomes and expected impacts as detailed in the West Partnership Improvement Plan 2021-22, advising that good progress had been made in relation to the three West Partnership workstreams, and providing strong examples of how the Partnership supported authorities to improve attainment and achievement for all, while closing the poverty related attainment gap.

The Director of Education provided further information highlighting that the report, which provided an overview of the West Partnership, included internal and external data, evaluation data from the 3 workstreams, and key messages from an independent evaluation of the West Partnership. He reported that the West Partnership outperformed national figures in a number of key measures including, literacy and numeracy; leavers' attainment at SCQF Levels 5 and 6; and school leaver destinations. The partnership also created opportunities for different

authorities to work together and share practice. For example in 2021-22 3,100 members of staff across the West Partnership area had participated in events; 40,000 learners had accessed West OS an online school resource that had been created; and 80% of colleagues reported improvements to their work environment following West Partnership events.

The committee noted the report.

WEST PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022-23

161. The committee considered a report by the Director of Education on the contents of the West Partnership's Improvement Plan 2022-23.

It was reported that Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) had been established nationally in 2017 to bring about improvement for all schools in Scotland, and East Renfrewshire was a member of the Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative, known as the West Partnership. The West Partnership Improvement Plan 2022-23 sets out the key areas for collaborative action to bring about improvement across the Glasgow City Region by enhancing local efforts to support and challenge schools to improve. A comprehensive range of engagements with key stakeholders had taken place and feedback from this together with recommendations from the Robert Owen Centre and consensus building conversations with workstream sponsors and members, programme participants and Education Scotland colleagues had all contributed to the 2022-23 Improvement Plan. The plan was considered and endorsed at the Glasgow City Region Education Committee on 22 September 2022 with a recommendation that each council area should approve the report through its own local governance arrangements.

The Director of Education highlighted key areas within the report, referring to the West Partnership's values, purpose, priorities, and drivers, and outlining the key activities and programmes for 2022-23. He confirmed that development opportunities were shared through social media channels; head teacher bulletins; and various education forums, and that the final plan would be forwarded to head teachers for distribution to colleagues in due course.

The committee approved the report.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 11 October 2022.

Present:

Councillor Paul Edlin (Chair)
Councillor Angela Convery (*)

Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Andrew Morrison

Councillor Edlin in the Chair

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Jacqui McCusker, Senior Solicitor; Brian Kilpatrick, Civic Government Enforcement Officer; Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer; and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Inspector Gareth Griffiths, Sergeant James Higgins and Constable Gavin Frew, Police Scotland.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

162. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

Variation in Order of Business

In accordance with Standing Order 20, Councillor Edlin agreed to vary the order of business as printed on the agenda in order to facilitate the conduct of the meeting.

PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL

163. The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement in relation to an application for the renewal of a Private Hire Driver's Licence (Agenda Item 5 refers).

The licensee was present together with his father.

Inspector Griffiths, Sergeant Higgins, and Constable Frew representing the Chief Constable, who had made a representation in respect of the application, were also present.

The report explained that in determining the application it would be for the committee to decide what weight it wished to attach to the representation by the Chief Constable and its relevance to the type of licence being applied for.

Inspector Griffiths was heard in respect of the representation submitted by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from Members.

The licensee was then heard in respect of the application and in response to questions from Members.

The committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the committee, having taken account of the submission made by the licensee, his previous conviction, its seriousness and relevance to the licence being applied for, and also having taken account of the representation by the Chief Constable, agreed that the application be renewed for a period of one year, subject to standard terms and conditions.

PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR GRANT

164. The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement in relation to an application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence (Agenda Item 3 refers).

The applicant was present.

Inspector Griffiths, Sergeant Higgins, and Constable Frew representing the Chief Constable, who had made an objection in respect of the application, were also present.

The report explained that in determining the application it would be for the committee to decide if it wished to consider a request by the Chief Constable to take account of a spent conviction which was "protected" in terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions)(Scotland) and, if so, what weight it wished to attach to the objection and its relevance to the type of licence being applied for.

Following discussion, the committee agreed to take account of the "protected" spent conviction and copies were distributed to Members.

Inspector Griffiths was heard in respect of the objection submitted by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from Members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application and in response to questions from Members.

The committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the committee, having taken account of the submission by the applicant, his previous conviction, its seriousness and relevance to the licence being applied for, and also having taken account of the objection by the Chief Constable, agreed that the application be granted for a period of one year, subject to standard terms and conditions.

PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR GRANT

165. The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement in relation to an application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence (Agenda Item 4 refers).

The applicant was present.

Inspector Griffiths, Sergeant Higgins, and Constable Frew representing the Chief Constable, who had made an objection in respect of the application, were also present.

The report explained that in determining the application it would be for the committee to decide what weight it wished to attach to the objection by the Chief Constable.

Inspector Griffiths was heard in respect of the objection by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from Members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application and in response to questions from Members.

The committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the committee, having taken account of the submission by the applicant, his previous conviction, its seriousness and relevance to the licence being applied for, and also having taken account of the objection by the Chief Constable, agreed that the application be refused on the grounds that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to be the holder of such a licence by virtue of his previous conviction.

PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR GRANT

166. The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement in relation to an application for the grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence (Agenda Item 6 refers).

The applicant, having been invited to attend, was not present.

Inspector Griffiths, Sergeant Higgins, and Constable Frew representing the Chief Constable, who had made an out of time representation in respect of the application, were present.

The committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to the next meeting to allow the applicant to make a personal appearance.

MINUTE
of
TEACHING STAFF APPEALS COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Committee Room, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 11 October 2022.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Anderson (Chair)	Councillor Katie Campbell
Councillor Katie Pragnell (Vice Chair)	Councillor Colm Merrick

Councillor Anderson in the Chair

Attending:

Geri Taylor HR Business Partner; Siobhan Wilson, Solicitor; and John Burke, Committee Services Officer.

Apology:

Councillor Gordon Wallace.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

167. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the Committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

APPEAL AGAINST DISMISSAL – EDUCATION DEPARTMENT – 1/2022

168. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 30 September 2022 (Page 213, Item 155 refers), the Committee resumed consideration of the appeal against dismissal. The appellant was accompanied by his union representative, Stephen McCrossan, EIS, in connection with his appeal.

Ms Tracy Morton, Education Senior Manager and Dr Mark Ratter, Director of Education, appeared on behalf of management.

Following a brief discussion of a document submitted by the appellant, both parties submitted their closing statements.

The committee adjourned to consider the information presented by both sides before returning to deliver their decision.

Following detailed consideration, the committee agreed that the grounds of the appeal had not been substantiated and that the appeal was not upheld.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 8.45am in the Collaboration Room, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 12 October 2022.

Present:

Councillor Caroline Bamforth
Councillor Paul Edlin
Councillor Katie Pragnell

Anne-Marie Monaghan
Amina Khan

Councillor Pragnell in the Chair

Attending:

Julie Murray, Chief Officer – Health and Social Care Partnership; and Kathryn McCormack, HR Manager.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

169. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

HEAD OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

170. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 15 September 2022 (Page 183, Item 134 refers), having noted that 1 of the 3 shortlisted candidates had withdrawn their application, the committee proceeded to interview the remaining 2 shortlisted candidates who had been selected for interview following the assessment centre exercise that had taken place.

Having conducted the interviews the committee, after discussion, agreed to offer the post to Raymond Prior, Interim Head of Children's Services and Criminal Justice, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of meeting held at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 13 October 2022.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)
Councillor Andrew Anderson

Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Katie Pragnell

Councillor O'Donnell, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy Services; Debbie Hill, Chief Procurement Officer; Michael McKernan, Economic Development and Inclusive Growth Manager; Suzanne Conlin, Senior Housing Manager; Jamie Reid, Strategic Insight and Communities Senior Manager(*); Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

(*) indicates remote attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

171. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Variation in Order of Business

In accordance with Standing Order 20, Councillor O'Donnell agreed to vary the order of business as printed on the agenda in order to facilitate the conduct of the meeting.

COVID RESERVE - PROPOSALS

172. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships seeking approval for the allocation of £1.7m of non-recurring COVID recovery reserves to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic, with a focus on community recovery and provision of direct support to some of the area's most vulnerable residents across a difficult winter period.

The report explained that in response to COVID-19, the Scottish Government released various streams of temporary funding to local authorities to react to the emerging needs and challenges faced by residents, businesses and service provision.

The funding landscape had been complex, with numerous funds each with varying criterion and central reporting requirements. Elected Members had been kept informed of these funds

through regular reports to Council since 2020 and in specific, more detailed reports such as for Humanitarian funding and the Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery (LACER) fund, most recently in August 2022.

It was noted that 'Humanitarian Funding' was an umbrella term which referred to the funding streams intended to support residents to overcome financial crisis and support financial wellbeing. This funding had been used over the preceding two years to tackle food insecurity; help with rising fuel costs; provide financial advice and support; and provide a range of direct payments to individuals experiencing financial hardship. Update reports had been considered by Cabinet most recently in November 2021.

The report clarified that the Flexible Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Fund (LACER) was intended to support local economic recovery and the cost-of-living impacts on low-income households, and in August 2022 Cabinet agreed £1.469m of LACER proposals including supporting local businesses to recover from the impact of the pandemic; rebuilding consumer confidence and stimulating economic activity; and supporting low-income households to become more economically active, taking a 'cash-first' approach.

The report then explained that in addition to this funding, the Scottish Government also provided councils with a general COVID grant. This funding which was non-recurring in nature had to be used for dealing with the impact of COVID and COVID recovery but there were no specific rules around its use. At the start of 2022/23, there was £10.5m left in this unrestricted COVID reserve. £4.8m of that funding had now been committed over the current and following year, mainly for the internal costs of loss of income and additional staffing costs. This left an uncommitted balance of £5.7m.

The report proposed that a further £1.7m of this reserve was now committed, leaving the remainder available for any COVID costs over winter 2022/23 and for all of 2023/24. It was explained that the Scottish Government had been clear that there would be no further funding. With another COVID wave expected in the autumn, pressures on staffing levels could increase in late 2022/23 and additional funding may be required to keep services running. Income was still expected to be affected in 2023/24.

Proposals discussed to date with partner agencies and Council services sought to balance provision of immediate support to mitigate financial hardship this winter, with capacity-building for longer term recovery. These proposals totalled more than £1.7M. The envelope for funding would be kept under review and, should further resources become available from the COVID reserve, or any alternative relevant source (even via Partner agencies), the list of proposals could be reviewed and the next set of priorities progressed.

The report included a summary of proposals totalling £1.7 million in addition to which a full more detailed breakdown of project proposals along with reserve projects was appended.

The Director of Business Operations and Partnerships was heard further on the report and in response to questions from Councillor Devlin on the reasons why Auchenback Resource Centre support was on the reserve and not the main project list.

Councillor O'Donnell having thanked officers for compiling the project lists and the non-administration Members on the cross party group in the collaborative approach taken to develop the project proposals, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the one-off availability of COVID recovery reserves, resulting from Scottish Government funding, to support pandemic recovery and renewal.

- (b) approved the strategic approach to support recovery under the following key areas:
 - i. Direct support for the most vulnerable this winter
 - ii. Support for advisory services
 - iii. Support for communities, including capacity building for long-term recovery
 - iv. Initiatives to reduce the impact of fuel poverty
 - v. Support to improve mental health and wellbeing.
- (c) approved the funding proposals, totalling £1.7m, summarised at paragraph 14 of the report and detailed in Annex 2 and noted that, should further funds become available, there may be potential to allocate funding to some of the reserve list proposals as set out in Annex 2;
- (d) agreed to delegate power to the Director of Business Operations & Partnerships, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to exercise flexibility in the terms of these proposals, to ensure most effective use of funding within the spirit of COVID recovery, capacity building and provision of support to the most vulnerable local people; and
- (e) noted that a final report outlining actual spend and updating on delivery and impact would come back to a future Cabinet meeting.

ANNUAL PROCUREMENT REPORT 2021-22 AND PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2019-2022 UPDATE

173. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Procurement Officer both seeking approval of the Annual Procurement Report for 2021-22 and providing an update on the implementation of the Procurement Strategy 2019-2022.

The report explained that the Annual Procurement Report was required under Section 18 (2)(a) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 where it was stated that councils must publish a summary of their regulated procurements completed during the year covered by the report. The report provided an opportunity for the Council to demonstrate to stakeholders that procurement spend was being used to achieve not only best value but also support the Council vision of being modern and ambitious to create a fairer future with all.

The report also explained that The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 also required the Council to develop a Procurement Strategy and review it annually. The Procurement Strategy incorporated 2019-2022 and demonstrated how procurement in East Renfrewshire played a fundamental role in delivery of the Council's strategic objectives and was a key enabling strand for continuous improvement and identifying efficiencies across the Council.

Copies of both the Annual Procurement Report and the Procurement Strategy Update accompanied the report.

Councillor Anderson referred to private sector procurement practises in place to ensure contractors were adopting the high standards of contracting companies, and enquired if similar processes were in place within the Council. In reply the Chief Procurement Officer explained that the Council followed Scottish Government guidance in relation to procurement but that she would be happy to have further discussions on this with Councillor Anderson. Furthermore, in response to Councillor O'Donnell, she explained that potential contractors were asked to complete a questionnaire on the steps they were taking to reduce carbon emissions.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the Annual Procurement Report 2021-22; and
- (b) noted the update on the implementation of the Procurement Strategy 2019-2022.

LICENSING OF SHORT-TERM LETS

174. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment advising of the introduction of licensing arrangements for short-term letting and seeking homologation of decisions taken to approve the Short Term Letting Policy and associated fees as set out in the appendix accompanying the report.

The report explained that one of the requirements of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Order 2022 was for every local authority, by 1 October, to have in place appropriate arrangements to be ready to accept applications for licences. It was noted that all new short-term lets must apply for a licence on or after 1 October 2022. Existing short-term lets would have 6 months (until 1 April 2023) to apply for a licence. The Council must make a determination on the licence application within twelve months. The final deadline for all short term let licences to be approved was 1 July 2024.

The report explained that licence applications would be dealt with by the Licensing Committee but suggested that for licences where there were no matters of concern, these could be dealt with by officers under delegated powers.

Details of the proposed licence fees were also set out it being noted that no additional funding for the introduction of the licensing regime was being provided by the Scottish Government and all costs must be covered through licence fees.

In response to Councillor Pragnell, the Senior Housing Manager explained that licensing fees varied across the country as circumstances were not the same everywhere, but that the fees in East Renfrewshire were broadly similar to comparator authorities.

That Cabinet agreed that:-

- (a) the decision to approve the Short-Term Licensing Policy and fees required to fund the service be homologated; and
- (b) delegated powers be granted to the Director of Environment and Head of Environment (Strategic Services) to determine applications for short-term let licences.

STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2023-2028

175. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval for the proposed Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-24 to 2027-28, a copy of which accompanied the report.

The report explained that the Scottish Government required local authorities to supplement their Local Housing Strategy (LHS) with a Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) setting out in detail the Council's affordable housing investment priorities, and detailed programme, for the coming 5 years. The SHIP would detail what houses would be built, what location and,

if available, who the proposed landlord would be. The profile of the SHIP programme should reflect the outcomes set out in the LHS to meet identified need for affordable homes in the local area. This detail was underpinned by estimated requirements produced from regional and local Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDA).

It was explained that SHIPs must be produced and approved by local authorities annually. The existing SHIP programme would be rolled forward and added to, taking into account up to date resource planning assumptions and subsidy levels as set out by the Scottish Government. The proposed SHIP must gain local authority committee approval prior submission to the Scottish Government.

It was noted that the Scottish Government committed to investing over £3.6 billion through its Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) supporting affordable housing delivery over this parliamentary term (2021-26). However, the Scottish Government had also recently extended this commitment to 110,000 affordable homes across Scotland by 2032, of which at least 70% of which would be homes for social rent. This recognised how integral housing was to wider commitments to tackling poverty and inequality, creating and supporting jobs, meeting energy efficiency and decarbonisation aims and creating connected, cohesive communities.

Whilst this funding was an increase on the previous programme it should be noted that Scottish Government funding for new build would be conditional on a number of requirements being met including fire suppression systems, additional indoor space for work or study, improved connectivity and access to outside space, higher energy efficiency standards and the use of modern construction methods.

Having explained the way in which AHSP funding was allocated to local authorities, the report set out the current Resource Planning Assumptions for East Renfrewshire. A total of £36.585 million was available with assumptions being made for 2026-27 and 2027-28 as updated Resource Planning Assumptions for those years were not yet available.

The report also summarised the method to be used for the prioritisation of projects as well as providing a summary of the numbers and types of houses that could be delivered over the period 2023-24 to 2027-28.

Responding to a question from Councillor Anderson on the purchasing of properties the Senior Housing Manager explained this was challenging in the current housing market as the Council would only pay home report value for any properties that became available.

The Cabinet approved the East Renfrewshire Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023–2028 for submission to Scottish Government by 28 October 2022.

HOUSING SERVICES ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND ASSURANCE STATEMENT 2021-22 (SCOTTISH SOCIAL HOUSING CHARTER)

176. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval for the Housing Services Annual Performance and Assurance Statement.

By way of background, the report explained that the Scottish Social Housing Charter (SSHC) required each landlord to provide the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) with detail of performance against 37 performance indicators and information for 32 contextual indicators by 31 May each year. This was known as the Annual Return on the Charter (ARC). This detail had been submitted to Cabinet each year since its introduction in 2013/14.

Following receipt of these returns, the SHR would produce a summary Landlord Report for every social landlord in Scotland; and an Engagement Plan for each landlord, which outlined the areas of scrutiny they would focus on, based on the prior year's reported performance.

The SHR's Regulatory Framework also required all social landlords to produce an Annual Assurance Statement (AAS) confirming compliance with the Regulatory Framework, SSHC standards and with statutory obligations, and on approval by the local authority to submit this to SHR for consideration annually by 31 October.

Copies of the performance report against the SSHC; the action plan to further strengthen compliance against the Regulatory Framework and SSHC; and the AAS 2022 accompanied the report.

The report explained that the performance report against the SSHC demonstrated that Housing Services was performing well in key areas in comparison to last year and the average for the housing sector in Scotland, with a number of examples of good practice highlighted including in relation to repairs, maintenance and empty homes.

Areas for improvement were also outlined, reference being made to the proposed programme of work to achieve compliance with Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICRs); tackling increased rent arrears, and improving customer engagement and communication.

As well as being submitted to the SHR following approval, the AAS would also be published and made available to tenants.

Responding to questions, the Senior Housing Manager explained that the time for EICR compliance had reduced from 10 to 5 years in April 2020. This was at a very challenging time and the service was now working hard to achieve compliance. She confirmed that few councils had been able to fully comply with the revised timescales and that discussions on the Council's implementation plans did take place with the SHR.

Responding to Councillor Devlin she explained that timing differences between rent due and the payment of benefits did unfortunately result on occasion in tenants being in rent arrears soon after the start of a tenancy. However Housing staff and colleagues from the Money Advice Team worked with tenants to try and maximise income and to develop an affordable payment plan. The timing of benefit payment lay with the Department of Work and Pensions.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the performance report against Scottish Social Housing Charter (SSHC) indicators and measures and how the Housing Service compared against 2020-21 and the average for the housing sector
- (b) noted the Action Plan to further strengthen compliance against the Regulatory Framework and SSHC; and
- (c) approved the AAS 2022 which has been prepared taking into account the outcomes of Housing Services self- evaluation of performance, and in compliance with the Regulatory Framework and SSHC.

LOCAL DISCRETIONARY FUND BUSINESS SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

177. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment outlining proposals for the use of funding allocated to councils by the Scottish Government to increase their response to local economic pressures.

The report explained that as part of the Scottish Government's ongoing response to the COVID pandemic an additional allocation of £1.25M had been awarded to East Renfrewshire Council for the Local Discretionary Fund to support local businesses. The first tranche of grant funding from the Local Discretionary Fund was £539,846 and was awarded December 2020. This resulted in 133 businesses being supported through a one-off payment of £4,000.

In order to appropriately spend the £1.25 million, the Economic Development team had been involved in a number of ongoing consultations with the local business network since early summer 2022 to identify and design a number of proposals that would benefit the long-term economic growth of the area and that also fitted with local, regional and national objectives, such as support to the green economy, tourism and increased footfall in town centres.

Up until the end of March 2024, the proposed programme would support and complement current and future provision such as the Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery (LACER) Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – (Support to Local Business intervention element). It was clarified that unlike previous COVID funds, which had been targeted towards specific groups or sectors, this fund empowered local authorities to direct additional financial support to specific groups or sectors based on the distinct characteristics within the business community where they considered this to be necessary or justified. This recognised the insight that councils had on their own business community and their knowledge of where funding would be most effectively deployed.

Thereafter the report set out the proposed arrangements for the strategic deployment of the £1.25 million highlighting that the proposals would support over 287 local businesses with specific growth activity that would allow them to trade into a positive future through improved job retention, job creation opportunities and increased turnover. Funds would also support other partners' activities to bring economic value and benefit to the local economy.

It was further explained that to support the programme extra staffing would be required with details being set out, it being noted that the posts would be funded through the Local Discretionary Fund Allocation.

The Director of Environment having acknowledged comments from Councillor Devlin on the process for briefing of Conveners the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the allocation of funding from the Scottish Government to East Renfrewshire Council; and
- (b) agreed to the use of Local Discretionary Funding as set out in the report.

PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022-23

178. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment advising of the Place Based Investment Programme Award from the Scottish Government and seeking approval for schemes for 2022-23.

The report explained that in February 2021 in their Programme for Government, the Scottish Government had announced that they proposed to implement a Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) over the 5-year period of the next parliament. The aim of the PBIP was to ensure that all place based investments were shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and accelerated Scottish Government ambitions for place, 20-minute neighbourhoods, town centre action, community-led regeneration and community wealth building.

Confirmation of the funding allocated to local authorities was received in May 2021, the funds being allocated on a weighted formula based on the number of towns and population in a local authority area and deprivation indices.

East Renfrewshire Council was awarded £635,000 of capital grant funding for the financial year 2021/22. Based on a pro-rata calculation for subsequent years the Council would receive capital grant funding of £551,100 for the current financial year and £384,100 in each of the remaining 3 years of the programme. This represented a total funding programme for East Renfrewshire Council in the region of £2.34m over the 5-year period.

Having welcomed the confirmation of a 5-year programme and explained that funding was now linked to the improvement of places including neighbourhoods rather than simply being focussed on town centres the report summarised the high level objectives of the PBIP.

The report then outlined the work that had been undertaken by the Economic Development team to pull together proposals in relation to the use of the £551,000 for 2022-23, and a list of proposed projects and reserves accompanied the report.

The report noted that early discussions with the applicants for each of the projects gave officers a strong indication that the projects were sufficiently progressed and that the projects could be delivered and the funds spent and/or committed within the required timescales. However it was noted that, as with the town centre programme, project costs were at an indicative budget stage and it would be necessary to again give the Director of Environment delegation to act quickly and transfer funds where necessary amongst projects, whilst remaining within the total funding envelope of £551,100. This was especially necessary given the volatility of the current markets.

Given the tight timescales associated with this programme in terms of when the grant was awarded by the Scottish Government and the length of time it took to develop projects, carry out feasibility studies, community engagement, options appraisal with outline costs, detailed design and competitive tendering, it was expected that many community-led type projects were unable to meet these deadlines for this particular year. However, as this was a 5-year programme there was still opportunity for all communities to apply for funding in future years. The Economic Development team had established a project pipeline approach for future funding opportunities and continued to work with community groups to develop their ideas into eligible “shovel ready” projects.

It was proposed that a bidding process as outlined above would continue to be used for the allocation of funding for future years. The details and outcome of each annual bidding process would be reported to Cabinet for approval in advance of each year’s programme.

Responding to questions, it was confirmed that the local community in Busby would be consulted on the proposals for Busby Play Park, and that whilst there was insufficient time to look at alternative spending proposals for Cowan Park in the current project round instead of the restoration of the bandstand, additional proposals for the park could be considered if further PBIP funding was made available. Discussions could also take place with Eaglesham Scouts about future funding opportunities.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the projects outlined in appendix 1 for 2022/23;
- (b) delegated to the Director of Environment to make adjustments to the proposals depending upon the detailed costs of projects becoming available;

- (c) noted the progress of those projects funded in 2021/22 in appendix 2; and
- (d) noted that further reports would be submitted to the Cabinet in due course seeking approval for projects in future years.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 3.00pm in the Committee Room, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 13 October 2022.

Present:

Councillor Kate Campbell
Councillor Colm Merrick

Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Owen O'Donnell

Councillor O'Donnell in the Chair

Apology:

Councillor Danny Devlin.

Attending:

Louise Pringle, Head of Business Operations and Partnerships; and Sharon Dick, Head of HR and Corporate Services.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

179. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

HEAD OF COMMUNITIES AND TRANSFORMATION

180. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Council of 29 June 2022 (Page 83, Item 56 refers), the committee took up consideration of applications for the post of Head of Communities and Transformation.

Following full consideration the committee agreed that 5 candidates be shortlisted for assessment.

