

**MINUTES of MEETING of POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held VIA SKYPE
on THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2020**

Present: Councillor Robin Currie (Chair)

Councillor Rory Colville	Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Lorna Douglas	Councillor Douglas Philand
Councillor Audrey Forrest	Councillor Alastair Redman
Councillor Bobby Good	Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Kieron Green	Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor Yvonne McNeilly	Councillor Richard Trail

Attending: Pippa Milne, Chief Executive
Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director
Joanna MacDonald, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership
Jane Fowler, Head of Customer Support Services
Patricia O'Neill, Governance Manager

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aileen Morton and Len Scoullar.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

(a) Policy and Resources Committee held on 20 February 2020

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 20 February 2020 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 24 September 2020

The Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 24 September 2020 were noted.

*** 4. FINANCIAL REPORTS MONITORING PACK – 31 AUGUST 2020**

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing a summary of the financial monitoring reports as at the end of August 2020. There were six detailed reports summarised within the executive summary including the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 August 2020; Monitoring of Policy Savings Options as at 31 August 2020; Monitoring of Financial Risks as at 31 August 2020; Capital Plan Monitoring Report as at 31 August 2020; Treasury Monitoring Report as at 31 August 2020 and Reserves and Balances as at 31 August 2020.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee –

1. Noted the revenue budget monitoring report as at 31 August 2020 and noted the comments in respect of the Health and Social Care Partnership.
2. Noted the progress with the policy savings options as at 31 August 2020.
3. Noted the financial risks for 2020-21.
4. Noted the capital plan monitoring report as at 31 August 2020 and approved the proposed changes to the capital plan as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.
5. Noted the treasury monitoring report as at 31 August 2020.
6. Noted the reserves and balances report as at 31 August 2020.
7. Agreed to recommend to Council that the revenue virements over £0.200m during July and August are approved.

(Reference: Report by Section 95 Officer dated 1 October 2020, submitted)

5. BUDGET OUTLOOK 2021-22 TO 2025-26

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an update to the budget outlook 2021-22 to 2025-26 reported to the Business Continuity Committee on 13 August 2020. The estimates within the report were based on the mid-range scenario with best and worst case scenarios noted in Appendix 1.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee noted the current estimated budget outlook position for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

(Reference: Report by Section 95 Officer dated 17 September 2020, submitted)

6. UPDATE ON 2021/22 SAVINGS THEME REVIEWS

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an update on the theme reviews identified savings options to be considered as part of the 2021-22 budget.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee noted the update on the Council's approach to identifying savings options to be considered as part of the 2021-22 budget process.

(Reference: Report by Section 95 Officer dated 15 October 2020, submitted)

*** 7. IMPLEMENTATION OF DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY**

The Committee gave consideration to a report presenting a new Domestic Abuse Policy for approval. The new Policy set out the Council's commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment at work for those who are being affected by, or who are at risk from, domestic abuse or violence.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee approved the new Domestic Abuse Policy for onward transition to the Council.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Customer Support Services dated 4 September 2020, submitted)

8. ARGYLL & BUTE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP (HSCP) CULTURE SURVEY RESPONSE UPDATE

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an update and assurance on culture change activity and the monitoring of that activity through the IJB as a result of the findings of an Argyll and Bute Culture Survey published on 15 May 2020.

Motion

The Policy and Resources Committee:

Welcomes the actions taken by the NHS Highland Board and Argyll and Bute IJB in response to the Sturrock Report and the follow on Culture Survey engagement exercise.

Endorses the approach adopted by the HSCP in delivering a 100 Day Plan building on the NHS Highland Culture Fit for Future Programme, which will benefit both NHS and Council employees through the cultural changes.

Notes that work by the Argyll and Bute Culture Group is ongoing to further embed and improve processes within the HSCP.

Moved Councillor Kieron Green, seconded Councillor Robin Currie.

Amendment

That the Committee:

- a. acknowledges the enduring concerns regarding bullying behaviours in the local health and social care staffs,
- b. agrees that all Argyll and Bute Health & Social Care Partnership staff should have the opportunity to relate their views to an independent body free from NHS and Argyll and Bute Social services, and
- c. agrees to refer this matter to the Council at its earliest meeting together with a recommendation that the Council request that the Integration Joint Board of the Health and Social Care Partnership instigate a comprehensive review of bullying behaviours affording all staff the opportunity to report on their experience past and present.

Moved Councillor Douglas Philand, seconded Councillor Audrey Forrest.

As the meeting was being held virtually the vote was taken by calling the roll and Members voted as follows –

Motion

Councillor Rory Colville
Councillor Robin Currie
Councillor Bobby Good
Councillor Kieron Green
Councillor Yvonne McNeilly
Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Alistair Redman
Councillor Elaine Robertson

Amendment

Councillor Lorna Douglas
Councillor Audrey Forrest
Councillor Douglas Philand
Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor Richard Trail

The Motion was carried by 8 votes to 5 and the Committee resolved accordingly.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee –

1. Welcomed the actions taken by the NHS Highland Board and Argyll and Bute IJB in response to the Sturrock Report and the follow on Culture Survey engagement exercise.
2. Endorsed the approach adopted by the HSCP in delivering a 100 Day Plan building on the NHS Highland Culture Fit for Future Programme, which will benefit both NHS and Council employees through the cultural changes.
3. Noted that work by the Argyll and Bute Culture Group is ongoing to further embed and improve processes within the HSCP.

(Reference: Report by Chief Officer – Health and Social Care Partnership dated 23 September 2020, submitted)

9. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015 - UPDATE - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST / ASSET TRANSFER REQUESTS/PARTICIPATION REQUESTS/ ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A report providing an update on annual activity in respect of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 was before the Committee for noting.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee noted the content of the report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services dated 8 September 2020, submitted)

10. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Policy and Resources Committee work plan as at October 2020 was before the Committee for noting.

Decision

The Policy and Resources Committee noted the content of the work plan.

(Reference: Policy and Resources Committee Workplan as at October 2020, submitted)