

**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL held BY TEAMS
on THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2022**

Present:

Councillor David Kinniburgh (Chair)

Councillor Jim Anderson	Councillor Liz McCabe
Councillor John Armour	Councillor Julie McKenzie
Councillor Gordon Blair	Councillor Roderick McCuish
Councillor Rory Colville	Councillor Yvonne McNeilly
Councillor Robin Currie	Councillor Jean Moffat
Councillor Mary-Jean Devon	Councillor Aileen Morton
Councillor Lorna Douglas	Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Jim Findlay	Councillor Iain Paterson
Councillor George Freeman	Councillor Gemma Penfold
Councillor Audrey Forrest	Councillor Douglas Philand
Councillor Bobby Good	Councillor Alastair Redman
Councillor Kieron Green	Councillor Alan Reid
Councillor Graham Hardie	Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Anne Horn	Councillor Richard Trail
Councillor Jim Lynch	Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor Donald MacMillan BEM	Councillor Andrew Vennard
Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor	

Attending:

Pippa Milne, Chief Executive
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director
Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director
David Logan, Head of Legal and Regulatory Support
Anne Blue, Interim Head of Financial Services
Fergus Murray, Head of Development and Economic Growth
Patricia O'Neill, Governance Manager
Margaret Anderson, Religious Representative
Alison Palmer, Teacher Representative

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated from Councillors Collins and Kelly and from Sandy MacPherson (religious representative) and Lorna Stewart (teacher representative).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hardie declared a non-financial interest in item 5 of the Agenda (Budgeting Pack 2022/23) by virtue of his appointment by the Council to the NHS Highland Board and Live Argyll Board. He advised that with reference to the Standards Commission Guidance in relation to declarations and specifically Section 5.4 (c) of the Councillors Code of Conduct he did not consider he had a relevant connection and as such would remain in the meeting and speak and vote on this item of Business.

Councillor Forrest declared a non-financial interest in item 5 of the Agenda (Budgeting Pack 2022/23) by virtue of her appointment by the Council to the Live Argyll Board. She advised that with reference to the Standards Commission Guidance in relation to declarations and specifically Section 5.4 (c) of the Councillors Code of Conduct she did

not consider she had a relevant connection and as such would remain in the meeting and speak and vote on this item of Business.

Councillor Anderson declared a non-financial interest in item 5 of the Agenda (Budgeting Pack 2022/23) by virtue of his appointment by the Council to the Board of CHArts and Live Argyll Board. He advised that with reference to the Standards Commission Guidance in relation to declarations and specifically Section 5.4 (c) of the Councillors Code of Conduct he did not consider he had a relevant connection and as such would remain in the meeting and speak and vote on this item of Business.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting on Argyll and Bute Council held on 25 November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

4. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee of 2 December 2021

The Minutes of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee of 2 December 2022 were noted.

(b) Policy and Resources Committee of 9 December 2021

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee of 9 December 2021 were noted.

Arising under Item 4 (**Financial Reports Monitoring Pack – 31 October 2021**) the Council agreed that the revenue virements over £0.200m during September and October 2021 were approved.

Arising under Item 12 (**Procurement Strategy 2022-25 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022-25 Draft Documents and Consultation**) the Council agreed the revised final Procurement Strategy 2022/25 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022/25 to be published on the Council's website in April 2022.

(c) Special Policy and Resources Committee of 9 December 2021

The Minutes of the Special Policy and Resources Committee of 9 December 2021 were noted.

(d) Community Services Committee of 16 December 2021

The Minutes of the Community Services Committee of 16 December 2021 were noted.

(e) Policy and Resources Committee of 17 February 2022

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee of 17 February 2022 were noted.

Arising under Item 5 (Budgeting Pack 2022/23) the Council noted that this would be dealt with as a substantive item at item 5 of the agenda.

Arising under Item 6 (Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy) the Council noted that this would be dealt with as a substantive item at item 6 of the Agenda.

Arising under Item 9 (Strategic Events and Festivals Fund – Round 4 – 2022/23 Fund) the Council agreed that any remaining underspend following the call for further applications from SEF Round 4 (2022/23) is earmarked and used to augment a future SEF round for 2024/25 – Round 6.

5. BUDGETING PACK 2022/23

The Council considered the Revenue Budget and Capital Budget papers as contained within the budgeting pack, considered such other appropriate resolutions in relation to these papers and fixed the Council Tax for the year to 31 March 2023 which had been referred without recommendation by the Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 February 2022.

Motion

Argyll and Bute Council:

- 1) Approves the revenue budget for 2022/23 as set out in the Revenue Budget Overview Report and subject to the decisions outlined below and set out in the Administration's Budget Model provided at Appendix 1.
- 2) Approves a base allocation to the Health and Social Care Partnership of £69.005m for 2022/23. Approves indicative base allocations for 2023/24 and 2024/25 to be £69.005m. The level of future years funding is subject to the level of Scottish Government funding and the Council's overall financial position in future years.
- 3) Agrees to defer the proposed 3% reduction to the Live Argyll management fee, resulting in a total management fee for 2022/23 of £4.075m. Notes that this will be applied in 2023/24 and will be subject to any future budget decisions. Agrees to engage in early discussions with Live Argyll management in relation to future approach to support effective longer term financial planning.
- 4)
 - a) Rejects policy savings option R104 - Burials and Cremations, totalling £80k;
 - b) Accepts all other policy savings options proposals, set out in Appendix 6 of the Revenue Budget Overview report, totalling £279.5k.
 - c) Endorses the management/operational savings, set out in Appendix 5 of the Revenue Budget Overview report, totalling £2.442m.
- 5) Agrees the following additional investments in line with Argyll and Bute Council's Priorities, as set out in the table below and also in the Administration Budget Model at Appendix 1:

Keeping Argyll and Bute Connected - £3.153m			One-off or Recurring	Funded From
£2.653m	Roads	Continuing a multi-million	One-off	General

		pound investment programme over the life of this council by providing an additional £2.653m to maintain and improve Argyll and Bute's rural, remote, island and urban roads network, to guarantee an overall Roads Reconstruction Budget of £8m for 2022/23.		Fund/COVID Monies
£0.5m	Active Travel	In support of the council's agreed priorities, allocates an additional £0.5m for active travel, including further improvements for footpaths and pavements and supporting safer routes to schools across Argyll and Bute. Requests that officers bring forward a report setting out scheme proposals to the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee.	One-off	General Fund
Investing in Our Places - £0.537m				
£300k	Street Lighting	Allocates £300k to deliver a programme of street lighting column replacement and improvement across Argyll and Bute, prioritised based on condition, with funding for at least 260 lighting columns.	One-off	General Fund
£100k	Litter Bin Replacement Programme	Invests £100k in Argyll and Bute's litter bin replacement programme and infrastructure, providing almost 200 new/better bins across the area where required due to condition/need and with a focus on town centres and prominent locations, to support cleaner communities. Requests that	One-off	General Fund

		officers explore options for use of new and innovative litter disposal solutions for future consideration.		
£100k	Staycation Boost	Augments the 2021/22 £0.5m staycation initiative with an additional investment of £100k, including support for community groups and partners in the provision of facilities which can support increasing staycation visitor numbers during the 2022/23 season.	One-off	From Recovery and Renewal Fund
£17k	Seasonal public toilets	Agrees provision of £17k to allow all seasonal public toilets to remain open all year round. These facilities are at Kilchattan Bay, Ulva, Ganavan, Crinan, Sandy Beach and Glenmorag. This means that, going forward, all public toilets will be open all year round.	Recurring (to be baselined)	Revenue Budget
£20k	Festive parking	Agrees that, going forward, all off-street parking charges will be suspended across Argyll and Bute for the two-week period prior to Christmas Day, to encourage residents to support local shops in the lead-up to Christmas, noting that in 2022 this will be from 9 th to 24 th December inclusive.	Recurring (to be baselined)	Revenue Budget
Safeguarding Our Future - £1.5m				
£1m	Learning Estate Investment Programme	Allocates £1m to help safeguard and support future funding for Argyll and Bute's Learning Estate Investment Programme.	One-off – put into provision	General Fund

£0.5m	Climate Change Projects	Provides additional funding of £0.5m, building on previous £1.1m investments, for climate change, including projects within Argyll and Bute's schools.	One-off	General Fund
Supporting Growth in Partnership - £0.165m				
£75k	Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative	In recognition of the importance of effective marketing of Argyll and Bute to maximise staycation opportunities and boost recovery and growth, approves the funding request from AITC and, to support future targeted/strategic activity as part of the overall focus on recovery, requests that officers engage with AITC to put in place a programme of regular evaluation and update reporting.	One-off	Existing Staycation Earmarking
£75k	CHArts	Agrees to the request to provide investment of £75k for 2022/23 to support the organisation in delivering targeted support, in communities, to the culture, arts and heritage sector as part of its plans to contribute to overall economic recovery.	One-off	From Recovery and Renewal Fund
£15k	Our Isles and Oceans	Agrees the request for a contribution of £15k to assist the organisation in delivering a second round of sailing-focused youth development programmes based in Argyll and Bute.	One-off	Existing Staycation Earmarking
Total investment in Argyll and Bute Priorities - £5.355m				

6) Notes the announcement of the Scottish Government's £80m Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery (LACER) Fund, to support local economic recovery and cost of living

impacts on low income households, and which will be distributed to local authorities to deliver in ways which best meet local needs. In order to ensure that this support reaches communities as quickly as possible, agrees to delegate the arrangements for Argyll and Bute's allocation of this funding to the Leader, Depute Leader and Leader of the largest Opposition Group.

7) Agrees £90,000 base funding for Strategic Events and Festivals for 2023/24, in order that the application process can commence during 2022/23, and this fund to be augmented by any underspend remaining from the current financial year.

8) Approves that the remaining surplus of £2.481m on the revenue budget is transferred to the General Fund.

9) Agrees that should the Council be permitted by the Scottish Government to apply the service concession flexibility, that this is used in preference to the loans fund principal repayment holiday.

10) Approves the 2021/22 revenue cost changes as detailed in section 2.2 of the COVID-19 Financial Position Report.

11) Approves the use of unallocated COVID-19 balance to fund the one-off payment of £0.372m in relation to backdated pay for the period January 2021 to March 2021.

12) Approves the 2022/23 revenue cost pressures as detailed in section 2.5 of the COVID-19 Financial Position Report amounting to £0.413m.

13) Approves the use of uncommitted COVID-19 funding to set aside £3.9m funding for capital contract increases which, in addition to the recommended sum, includes emerging pressures such as the Campbeltown Flood Scheme and delegates to the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee approval of spend of up to £1.2m from this provision in relation to the Campbeltown Flood Scheme.

14) Approves the following in relation to fees and charges with effect from 1st April 2022 unless otherwise noted:

a) Approve the proposals for the fees and charges inflationary increase of 3% and approve the charges that are over and above inflation. Note that this would generate additional income of £0.390m in total.

b) Approve the changes proposed to the Social Work fees and charges.

c) Approve all other charges as noted within the Fees and Charges Schedule.

15) Notes the financial risks analysis.

16) Approves the contingency level for the General Fund balance at a level of 2% of net expenditure, equivalent to £5.256m and note the report on reserves and balances.

17) Approves the revenue estimates for 2022/23 and that consequently the local tax requirement estimated at £55.262m is funded from Council Tax. Approve the following rates and charges for the year, 2022/23:

a) Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in Band "D" of £1,408.76, representing a 3% increase.

b) Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in each of the other valuation bands in accordance with Section 74(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended.

c) Business Rates as determined by Scottish Ministers.

18) Approves the capital plan as set out in Appendix 3 of the capital plan summary report, and agrees to fund the £0.992m gap through borrowing. Notes that this will result in an annual revenue cost pressure of £0.064m per year from 2022/23. In light of the impact of reducing capital funding year on year, agrees to represent to the Scottish Government the challenging circumstances faced by the council in relation to capital infrastructure needs, calling for commensurate capital funding which will help the local authority to better meet such significant pressures and specifically seeking additional funding to cover the extraordinary £1m-plus damage sustained to the A844 Ardbeg Road, Isle of Bute, during Storm Barra in December 2021.

19) Approves the Corporate Asset Management Strategy.

20) Notes the Corporate Asset Management Plan and the Asset Group Summaries.

21) Notes that the Unallocated General Fund balance is £0.566m.

Appendix 1

Revenue Model

	2022/2 3 £000	2023/2 4 £000	2024/2 5 £000	2025/2 6 £000	2026/2 7 £000
Budget Surplus/(Gap) as Per Budget Pack	2,784	(7,593)	(13,730)	(20,985)	(26,055)
Defer Live Argyll 3% reduction (para 3)	(122)				
Reject Policy Saving R104 (para 4a)	(80)	(80)	(80)	(80)	(80)
Opening of Seasonal Public Toilets (para 5)	(17)	(17)	(17)	(17)	(17)
Suspension of festive off-street car parking charges (para 5)	(20)	(20)	(20)	(20)	(20)

To Fund Borrowing for Capital Plan (para 18)	(64)	(64)	(64)	(64)	(64)
Transfer to General Fund	(2,481)				
Revised Budget Surplus/(Gap)	0	(7,774)	(13,911)	(21,166)	(26,236)

Capital Plan/Unallocated General Fund/COVID Funding

	Capital Plan £000	Unallocated General Fund £000	COVID Funding £000
As Per Budget Pack	(992)	1,979	6,937
Transferred from in-year revenue surplus		2,481	
Transferred to contingency to maintain 2% provision		(6)	
Funded by Borrowing (para 18)	992		
One-off Investments (para 5):			
Roads Reconstruction programme		(1,488)	(1,165)
Active Travel		(500)	
Street Lighting		(300)	
Bin Replacement Programme		(100)	
Climate Change Programme		(500)	
Provision for Learning Estate Investment Programme (para 5)		(1,000)	
Provision for Capital Contract Increases			(3,900)
Retain Recovery and Renewal Fund (see notes below)			(1,872)
Revised	0	566	0

Note:

The £100k staycation investment and £75k Investment in CHARTS will be funded from the Recovery and Renewal Fund reducing the balance from £1.872m to £1.697m. Following an allocation of £150K by the Policy and Resources Committee on 17th February 2022 to support Levelling Up Fund bids, the final balance is now £1.547m.

The investments in Argyll and Isles Tourism Co-operative and Our Isles and Oceans will be funded from the remaining funds within the Staycation

Moved by Councillor Robin Currie, seconded by Councillor Mulvaney.

Amendment

Argyll and Bute Council ...

Revenue Expenditure

- a. Approves the revenue estimates for 2022-23 and that consequently the local tax requirement estimated at £55.262m is funded from Council Tax. Approve the following rates and charges for the year, 2022-23:
 - i. Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in Band "D" of £1,408.76 representing a 3% increase.
 - ii. Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in each of the other valuation bands in accordance with Section 74(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended.
 - iii. Business Rates as determined by Scottish Ministers.
- b. Approve the revenue budget for 2022-23 as set out in the revenue budget overview report, subject to the decisions as noted within this budget proposal.
- c. Approve a base allocation to the Health and Social Care Partnership of £69.005m for 2022-23. Approve indicative base allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25 to be £69.005m. The level of future years funding is subject to the level of Scottish Government funding and the Council's overall financial position in future years.
- d. Rejects the proposed 3% reduction to the Live Argyll Management Fee.
- e. Approve the following in relation to fees and charges with effect from 1 April 2022 unless otherwise noted:
 - i. Approve the proposals for the fees and charges inflationary increase of 3% and approve the charges that are over and above inflation. Note that this would generate additional income of £0.390m in total.
 - ii. Approve the changes proposed to the Social Work fees and charges.
 - iii. Approve all other charges as noted within the Fees and Charges Schedule

- f. Endorses the new management/operational savings as outlined in Appendix 5 of the revenue budget overview report
- g. Rejects the following policy savings options amounting to £143,000
 - R&I 04 Burials and Cremations +8% Increase - £80,000
 - CS 01 Climate Change & Resource Efficiency - £63,000

Accepts all other policy savings outlined in Appendix 6 of the revenue budget overview report.

- h. Makes a permanent provision for the employment of an Environment Warden based in the MAKI area at a cost of £40,000.
- i. Approves a base funding of £90,000 for Strategic Events and Festivals in 2023-24, in order that the call for applications can proceed in 2022-23, noting that this amount will be augmented by the underspend in the current year previously agreed.
- j. Approve that the surplus on the revenue budget is transferred into the Unallocated General Fund and used as outlined in this budget proposal.

COVID-19 Fund

- k. Approve the 2021-22 revenue cost changes as detailed in section 2.2 of the COVID-19 Financial Position Report.
- l. Approve the 2022-23 revenue cost pressures as detailed in section 2.5 of the COVID-19 Financial Position Report amounting to £0.413m.
- m. Approve the use of unallocated COVID-19 balance to fund the one-off payment of £0.372m in relation to backdated pay for the period January 2021 to March 2021.
- n. Approve the use of uncommitted COVID-19 funding to set aside £3.5m funding for capital contract increases, recognising the post-Covid experience on projects such as the Campbeltown Flood Scheme.
- o.
- p. Make specific provision from the capital contract increases fund as noted in item (l) for an unbudgeted project cost increase in the delivery of the Campbeltown Flood Protection Scheme, at a cost of £1.135m and delegates to EDI approval of this spend.
- q. Approves the provision of £40,000 of grant support to each of Argyll and Bute CAB, Alienergy and Bute Advice Centre in recognition of the substantial and increasing demand for consumer advice services arising from the compound effects of lockdown debt, escalating costs of fuel and the rising cost of living; at a cost of £120,000.

- r. Approve the award of a one-off £100,000 Covid support payment to Live Argyll.
- s. Approve the creation of an Entrepreneur Business Improvement Fund to be administered by Business Gateway. The purpose of the Fund; to provide financial support for SMEs through the Council's Digital Skills/Boost programme, small scale capital grants, etc.; at a cost of £250,000. This is subject to a report by the Executive Director to the Policy and Resources Committee regarding the details for operation of the scheme.
- t. Agrees to the funding requests in respect of CHARTS and AITC work to re-establish community arts and tourism in Covid recovery, at a cost of £150,000.
- u. Agree the suspension of Council car park charges during the period leading up to Christmas from 10th-24th December, at a cost of £20,000, in support of the Shop Local initiative and retail business recovery.
- v. Approve the transfer of the balances provided for Future Years and those, as yet unallocated to the Unallocated General Fund, leaving a balance of £426k in the Recovery and Renewal Fund.
- w. Approve that should the Council be permitted by the Scottish Government to apply the service concession flexibility, that this is used in preference to the loans fund principal repayment holiday.
- x. Further to the announcement of the Scottish Government's Covid Economic Recovery Fund, the prospect of some £1.4m new funding presents the Council with an opportunity, not only to support local businesses through its' recovery, but importantly to help communities and individuals.

Notwithstanding the £150 discount on energy bills to households in Scotland in council tax bands A to D, Officers are asked to prepare a report for the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on how the Council can use this opportunity:

- a. to further help low income families, and
- b. to extend support to local businesses.

Capital Expenditure

- y. Approve the capital plan as set out in Appendix 3 of the capital plan summary report, noting the deficit of £0.992m in funding and approve the use of borrowing to fund the deficit within the capital programme, noting the consequent revenue cost pressure of £64,000 per annum from 2023-24.
- z. Agrees the following new expenditure on to augment the current capital resources available to the Roads and Infrastructure Service, for the following purposes, subject to a report to the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee by the Executive Director regarding the details for expenditure under these headings:

Roads Reconstruction and Repair – £4,500k
 Pavement Improvements and Repair, inc. drop kerbs - £100k
 Roadside Scrub Removal and Maintenance - £100k
 Surface Water Drainage Improvement and Maintenance - £100k
 Cemetery Development and Improvement - £1m

Unallocated General Fund

- x. Approve the contingency level for the General Fund balance at a level of 2% of net expenditure, equivalent to £5.257m and note the report on reserves and balances.
- y. Agrees to the funding request from Isles and Oceans, at a cost of £15,000.
- z. Note the financial risks analysis.
- aa. Approve the Corporate Asset Management Strategy.
- bb. Note the Corporate Asset Management Plan and the Asset Group Summaries.

AMENDMENT MODEL

	Revenue Budget £000	Capital Plan £000	Unallocated General Fund £000	COVID Monies £000
As Per Budget Pack	2,784	(992)	1,979	6,937
Reject Live Argyll 3% reduction	(122)			
Reject Policy Saving RI04	(80)			
Reject Policy Saving CS01	(63)			
MAKI Environment Warden post	(40)			
To Fund Borrowing for Capital Plan	(64)			
Transfer Revenue Surplus to General Fund	(2,415)		2,415	
Funded by Borrowing		992		
For Capital Resources in Roads and Infrastructure:				
Roads Reconstruction and Repair			(4,500)	
Pavement Improvements and Repair inc drop kerbs			(100)	
Roadside Scrub Removal and Maintenance			(100)	

Surface Water Drainage Improvements and Maintenance			(100)	
Cemetery Development			(1,000)	
Provision for Capital Cost Increases				(3,500)
Advice Services				(120)
Live Argyll COVID Recovery Support				(100)
Entrepreneur Business Improvement Fund				(250)
AITC & Charts Recovery Support				(150)
Council Car Park Charges Festive Season				(20)
Retain Balance in Recovery and Renewal Fund				(426)
Isles and Oceans			(15)	
Transfer to General Fund Contingency to Maintain 2% Level			(7)	
Transfer between COVID and General Fund			2,371	(2,371)
Revised Budget Surplus/(Gap)	0	0	943	0

REVENUE MODEL	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000	2024-25 £000	2025-26 £000	2026-27 £000
Budget Surplus/(Gap) as Per Budget Pack	2,784	(7,593)	(13,730)	(20,985)	(26,055)
Reject Live Argyll 3% reduction	(122)	(122)	(122)	(122)	(122)
Reject Policy Saving RI04	(80)	(80)	(80)	(80)	(80)
Reject Policy Saving CS01	(63)	(63)	(63)	(63)	(63)
MAKI Environment Warden post	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)
To Fund Borrowing for Capital Plan	(64)	(64)	(64)	(64)	(64)
Transfer to General Fund	(2,415)				
Revised Budget Surplus/(Gap)	0	(7,962)	(14,099)	(21,354)	(26,424)

Moved by Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Forrest.

Councillor Freeman having moved a further amendment which failed to find a seconder requested his dissent to be recorded.

The Provost requested the Section 95 Officer to confirm that the Motion and Amendment before the Council, containing budget proposals were competent and balanced. The Section 95 Officer confirmed this was the case.

As the meeting was being held on a virtual basis the vote required to be taken by calling the Roll and Members voted as follows –

Motion	Amendment	No Vote
Councillor Anderson	Councillor Armour	Councillor Freeman
Councillor Colville	Councillor Blair	
Councillor Currie	Councillor Douglas	
Councillor Devon	Councillor Findlay	
Councillor Good	Councillor Forrest	
Councillor Green	Councillor Horn	
Councillor Hardie	Councillor Lynch	
Councillor Kinniburgh	Councillor McKenzie	
Councillor MacMillan BEM	Councillor Moffat	
Councillor McCabe	Councillor Paterson	
Councillor McCuish	Councillor Philand	
Councillor Sir McGrigor	Councillor Taylor	
Councillor McNeilly	Councillor Trail	
Councillor Morton		
Councillor Mulvaney		
Councillor Penfold		
Councillor Redman		
Councillor Reid		
Councillor Robertson		
Councillor Vennard		

Decision

The Motion was carried by 20 votes to 13 with one no vote and the Council resolved accordingly.

(Ref: Reports and Budget Pack by Section 95 Officer dated 24 February 2022, submitted)

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Council gave consideration to a report which sought approval of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy which set out the Council's Strategy for borrowing and investment for the forthcoming year. The report also set out the policy for the repayment of loans fund advances for 2022-23 which had been referred without recommendation by the Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 February 2022.

Decision

1. Approve the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy and the indicators contained within. Note that the figures within the Strategy will be updated to reflect the budget decisions agreed at Council.
2. Approve the continued use of the asset life method for the repayment of loan fund advance using a 5.1% annuity interest rate, with the exception of spend to save schemes where the funding/income profile method could be used.
3. Approve the proposed asset repayment periods as detailed within section 2.6 of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.
4. Approve the ability to continue to use countries with a sovereign rating of AA- and above, as recommended by the Council's external treasury management advisors.

(Ref: Report by Section 95 Officer dated 10 February 2022 submitted)

7. BY-ELECTION RESULTS - LOMOND NORTH WARD

The Council gave consideration to a report by the Returning Officer in respect of the results of the by-election held on 16 December 2021 for Ward 9 – Lomond North.

Decision

The Council noted the election of Councillor Paul Collins to Ward 9 – Lomond North.

(Reference: Report by Returning Officer dated 17 December 2021, submitted)

8. POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Council considered a report which gave an update on changes to the political composition of the Council following the election of Councillor Paul Collins to the Lomond North Ward. The report also advised of vacancies on the Community Services Committee and to the vacant substitute position on the Valuation Joint Board.

Decision

The Council:-

1. Noted the updated Political Composition of Argyll and Bute Council attached at Appendix 1 to the report and;
2. Agreed to appoint Councillor Gary Mulvaney to the Community Services Committee and to the vacant position on the Valuation Joint Board.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support dated 1 February 2022, submitted)

9. FREEDOM OF ARGYLL AND BUTE AWARD CEREMONY

In November 2021 the Council previously agreed to confer the Freedom of Argyll and Bute to Patrick Stewart CVO, MBE and the Council considered a report which set out matters in

order to progress the arrangements for the award ceremony in light of ongoing public health guidance.

Decision

The Council:

1. Instructed the Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Services, to make arrangements in conjunction with the Provost for a Special Meeting of the Council for the formal admission ceremony.
2. Noted that this will be the only item on the Agenda for that Special Meeting of the Council, which will take place at a date, time and place to be determined as soon as possible.
3. Agreed that the Special Meeting of the Council be conducted on a hybrid meeting basis.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support dated 7 February 2022, submitted)

The Council resolved in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the press and public for the following item of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

E1 10. REPORT FOR CASH FLOW FOR CAPITAL PROJECT - KILMARTIN MUSEUM CO LTD FOR KILMARTIN MUSEUM REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

At its meeting on 24 January 2014, Council agreed to the principal of offering cash flow loans to third party organisations to assist with delivery of capital projects supported by the Council. The Council considered a report which outlined a request for a cash flow loan from Kilmartin Museum Company Limited (KMCL) to support the Kilmartin Museum Redevelopment project.

Councillor Freeman having moved an amendment to the recommendations which failed to find a seconder requested his dissent to be recorded.

Decision

The Council approved the recommendations as highlighted in the submitted report.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director for Development and Economic Growth dated 16 February 2022, submitted)