

**MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL held BY MICROSOFT TEAMS
on MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2024**

Present: Councillor Dougie Philand (Chair)

Councillor John Armour	Councillor Reeni Kennedy-Boyle
Councillor Gordon Blair	Councillor Jim Lynch
Councillor Jan Brown	Councillor Luna Martin
Councillor Math Campbell-Sturgess	Councillor Tommy MacPherson
Councillor Garret Corner	Councillor Ian James MacQuire
Councillor Maurice Corry	Councillor Liz McCabe
Councillor Robin Currie	Councillor Dougie McFadzean
Councillor Audrey Forrest	Councillor Julie McKenzie
Councillor Kieron Green	Councillor Yvonne McNeilly
Councillor Amanda Hampsey	Councillor Ross Moreland
Councillor Daniel Hampsey	Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Graham Hardie	Councillor Iain Shonny Paterson
Councillor Fiona Howard	Councillor Gemma Penfold
Councillor Willie Hume	Councillor Alastair Redman
Councillor Mark Irvine	Councillor William Sinclair
Councillor Andrew Kain	Councillor Andrew Vennard
Councillor Jennifer Kelly	Councillor Peter Wallace
Councillor Paul Donald Kennedy	

Attending: Pippa Milne, Chief Executive
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director
Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director
David Logan, Head of Legal and Regulatory Support
Shona Barton, Governance Manager

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. UPDATE TO COUNCIL FUNDING FOR 2024-25

The Council gave consideration to a report providing information on additional funding for financial year 2024-25 provided by the Scottish Government, and as a result, inviting the Council to re-consider the previous decision in relation to Council Tax rates for 2024-25.

Motion

Agree the recommendations in paragraphs 3.1.(a) to (d), note the advice from the Chief Financial Officer in regard to the level of Council Tax for 2025-26 and agree that advice, updated as appropriate in the course of this financial year will be part of Members' considerations in setting the Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2025-26.

Moved by Councillor Jim Lynch, seconded by Councillor Audrey Forrest.

Amendment

Agree the recommendations at a) to d) per the report with the addition of the following:

e) Note the financial modelling in the report and request that officers continue to develop budget outlook and projections for 2025/2026 and beyond, using a range of scenarios and estimates for income (including council tax) and expenditure, with members regularly updated.

f) Commends the dedication, hard work and resilience of the former Council Leader, Robin Currie and his 'TALIG' administration in successfully securing extra money from the Scottish Government.

g) Request the new Council Leader write to the First Minister in the following terms:

- i) To thank his government and ministers for their engagement post 22 February 2024 and the subsequent additional money provided to Argyll and Bute Council, allowing us to freeze the council tax today.
- ii) To reiterate our support that the Verity House agreement be upheld and respected by the Scottish Government, in that there is mutual respect between national and local government; the default position is no ringfencing of resources; and that council budgets and council tax are determined by local government.
- iii) That the Scottish Government engages with COSLA to ensure there is full funding for local government services that are communities rely upon, and there is no further unilateral council tax freeze or caps applied in the life of this parliament.

Moved by Councillor Gary Mulvaney, seconded by Councillor Yvonne McNeilly.

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

Motion

Councillor John Armour
Councillor Gordon Blair
Councillor Jan Brown
Councillor Math Campbell Sturgess
Councillor Audrey Forrest
Councillor Kieron Green
Councillor Fiona Howard
Councillor Willie Hume
Councillor Mark Irvine
Councillor Andrew Kain
Councillor Jennifer Kelly
Councillor Reeni Kennedy Boyle
Councillor Jim Lynch
Councillor Luna Martin
Councillor Tommy MacPherson
Councillor Ian James McQuire
Councillor Dougie McFadzean

Amendment

Councillor Garret Corner
Councillor Maurice Corry
Councillor Robin Currie
Councillor Amanda Hampsey
Councillor Daniel Hampsey
Councillor Graham Hardie
Councillor Paul Donald Kennedy
Councillor Liz McCabe
Councillor Yvonne McNeilly
Councillor Ross Moreland
Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Gemma Penfold
Councillor Alastair Redman
Councillor Willaim Sinclair
Councillor Andrew Vennard
Councillor Peter Wallace

Councillor Julie McKenzie
Councillor Ian Shonny Paterson
Councillor Dougie Philand

Decision

The Motion was carried by 20 votes to 16 and the Council resolved accordingly.

(Reference: Report by Section 95 Officer dated 8 April 2024, submitted)