MINUTES of MEETING of EXECUTIVE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD
on THURSDAY, 2 JUNE 2011

Present:                                             Councillor Dick Walsh (Chair)
Councillor Rory Colville                             Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Robin Currie                              Councillor Andrew Nisbet
Councillor Vivien Dance                              Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Donald McIntosh                           Councillor Len Scoullar
Councillor Neil Mackay                               Alison Palmer
Councillor Donald MacMillan                          Douglas Mackie
Councillor Bruce Marshall                            

Also Present:                                       Councillor George Freeman             Councillor James McQueen
Councillor Alister MacAlister                        Councillor John Semple
Councillor Alex McNaughton                           Provost William Petrie

Attending:                                          Sally Loudon, Chief Executive
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director – Customer Services
Sandy Mactaggart, Executive Director – Development and
Infrastructure Services
Bruce West, Head of Strategic Finance
Dougie Dunlop, Head of Children and Families
Malcolm MacFadyen, Head of Facility Services
Mark Stewart, Marine and Coastal Manager
Ishabel Bremner, Economic Development Manager
Nicola Debnam, CHORD Programme Manager
Alan Brough, Exchequer Manager
Ray McIntosh-Walley, Employability Manager
Mark Lines, Service Officer – Children with Needs
Antony Clark, Assistant Director, Audit Scotland
Gary Devlin, Director, Grant Thornton UK LLP

The Leader welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a special welcome to
Antony Clark, Assistant Director of Audit Scotland and Gary Devlin, Director, Grant
Thornton UK LLP, the Council’s external auditors, who were attending to give a
presentation on the Local Area Network of external scrutiny bodies recently completed
annual Shared Risk Assessment review of the Council and the updated Assurance and
Improvement Plan.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated from Councillors Alison Hay, Duncan
MacIntyre, Robert Macintyre, Ellen Morton and from Maureen Arthur and David
McEwan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dick Walsh declared a non financial interest in respect of item 8 of this
Minute (Allocation of Central Third Sector Grants Budget 2011-12) as he is
Chair of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Group. He left the room and took no
part in the discussion of this item and Councillor Gary Mulvaney took the Chair for this item in his absence.

3. MINUTES

(a) EXECUTIVE 21 APRIL 2011

The Minutes of the Executive of 21 April 2011 were approved as a correct record.

Arising from item 8 Transportation and Infrastructure – it was noted that the Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services would bring a report on Air Services discounts to islands to the next meeting of the Executive.

(b) SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES 4 MAY 2011

The Minutes of the Special Committee for Older People’s Service of 4 May 2011 were noted.

4. LEADER’S REPORT

The Leader submitted a report which also highlighted some of the activities of the Depute Leader who had recently attended some meetings on his behalf including:

Her attendance at a meeting of the Project Board for Future Use of Learning Disability Services on 4 May 2011; her attendance at a meeting on 12 May 2011 to discuss the development of Campbeltown Grammar School facilities; and her attendance at a meeting of the CHORD Programme Management Board on 18 May 2011.

The Leader also provided updates on Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates collection figures up to 30 April 2011; Benefits; Procurement and Commissioning and Customer Services.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report for the period 11 April to 20 May 2011.

(Reference: Report by Leader of the Council, submitted)

5. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT - FUNDING OF SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE PROJECTS

Consideration was given to a report advising on the key conditions and guidance from the Scottish Government for procuring bodies receiving revenue finance from the Scottish Government’s “Scotland’s Schools for The Future” project contained within a letter from the Learning Directorate of the Scottish Government dated 22 March 2011 and the current position in regard to the Council progressing the business cases for each of the proposed Dunoon Joint Primary Campus and new Campbeltown Grammar.
Decision

1. Noted the report and requested the Executive Director – Customer Services to write to the Learning Directorate of the Scottish Government confirming that the Council will work within the conditions and guidance set out in the letter dated 22 March 2011; and

2. Requested the Executive Director – Customer Services to consider the conditions and guidance set out in the said letter and to report back to the Executive making recommendations on a number of factors as detailed at paragraphs 2.2.1 – 2.2.4 of the Executive Director’s report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services, submitted)

6. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Council and Departmental scorecards and reports were presented to the Executive using the Council’s performance management system, Pyramid, and focussed on performance during the period December 2010 to March 2011, including a review of successes, key challenges and an outline of improvement actions for the coming period.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report and scorecards for financial quarter 4 2010/2011;

2. Agreed to the Chief Executive arranging a seminar for Members, Teacher representatives and Religious representatives to highlight changes to the 2011/2012 Scorecards which will reflect the new Corporate Plan and Service Plans for 2011/12 which are more outcome based;

3. Noted that the Executive Director – Customer Services will include the former Hermitage Academy site as a key challenge in future reports;

4. Noted that the Chief Executive will look at incorporating measures for Roads Asset Management on the Council Scorecard; and

5. Noted that the Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure will investigate the possibility of introducing mobile tarring units on the islands and report back to the Executive.

(Reference: Reports and Scorecards by Chief Executive and Executive Directors for the period January – March 2011, submitted)

Councillor Vivien Dance joined the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item.

7. ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Local Area Network of external scrutiny bodies has recently completed its annual Shared Risk Assessment review of the Council and updated the Assurance and Improvement Plan accordingly. Consideration was given to a presentation by Antony Clark, Assistant Director of Audit Scotland on the
processes and findings of this year’s assessment and on the Plan which outlines the current level of risk within the Council and sets out the proposed external scrutiny for a rolling three year period.

Mr Clark also responded to a number of questions arising from his presentation and report.

**Decision**

1. Noted the annual Assurance and Improvement Plan update and, in particular, the positive comments on the Council’s improvement progress and reduction in risk;

2. Noted that areas identified as risks or uncertainty will continue to be addressed through the Council’s ongoing improvement agenda; and

3. Noted that consideration will be given to a request for issues which have a national dimension being highlighted in future reports.

(Reference: Report by Chief Executive and Assurance and Improvement Plan Update 2011-14, submitted)

The Leader ruled and the Executive agreed to vary the order of business and consider the report on the Allocation of Central Third Sector Grants Budget 2011-12 next as Councillor Mulvaney had to leave the meeting early.

Having previously declared an interest in this item, Councillor Walsh left the room and took no part in the discussion of this item. Councillor Gary Mulvaney took the Chair for this item.

8. **ALLOCATION OF CENTRAL THIRD SECTOR GRANTS BUDGET 2011-12**

A report recommending the allocation of the Third Sector Grants central budget for 2011-2012 was considered. The total Third Sector Grant budget made available by the Council for allocation to third sector organisations centrally is £79,950.

**Decision**

Agreed strategic funding of the following annual amounts:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Amount Awarded 2011/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argyll and Bute Befrienders</td>
<td>£24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argyll and Bute Women’s Aid</td>
<td>£18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis</td>
<td>£16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationships Scotland – Couple Counselling Argyll</td>
<td>£ 4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argyll and Bute Duke of Edinburgh’s Award</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Chair ruled and the Executive agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1.15 pm for lunch.

The Executive reconvened at 1.50 pm when Councillor Walsh resumed the Chair.

Councillors George Freeman, Gary Mulvaney, John Semple and William Petrie and also Alison Palmer did not return to the meeting.

9. THIRD SECTOR AND COMMUNITIES

The Spokesperson for Third Sector and Communities submitted a report which highlighted issues he had recently been involved with including:-

His attendance at the Development Trust Association Scotland Seminar on Asset Transfer on 1 March 2011; his attendance at the second meeting of the Third Sector and Communities CPP Sub Group on 10 May 2011; his attendance at a Library Team meeting on 3 May 2011; and his attendance at the official opening of “The Lost City Soft Play and Climb Cube” at Atlantis Leisure on 20 April 2011.

He also reported on the Scottish Social Enterprise Fair on 20 April 2011 and meeting with Antonia Swinson of Scottish Social Enterprise Coalition and provided updates on Campbeltown Museum; Campbeltown All Weather Pitch; Argyll and Bute Social Services Initiative; and the Revolving Renewable Energy Fund being promoted by Forum for the Future.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report;

2. Agreed that a presentation on the Council’s library service be added to the programme of presentations to be made to Council; and

3. Agreed that the Spokespersons for Third Sector and Communities; Rural and Islands Affairs, Housing and Gaelic; and Enterprise, Energy, Culture and Tourism should be kept informed of discussions regarding arts, culture and heritage.

(Reference: Report by Spokesperson for Third Sector and Communities dated May 2011, submitted)

10. ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL AND NHS HIGHLAND BOARD PATHWAY TO INTEGRATION
Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland have had preliminary discussions to initiate the development of a strategy for integration and a report setting out an overarching framework of values and principles that, if agreed, would underpin the development of the strategy was considered.

**Decision**

1. Noted the current reality of partnership working in Argyll and Bute;
2. Agreed that significant further improvements in the experience and outcomes for services users and improvement in the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the service will not be achieved within these current arrangements;
3. Agreed the values and principles that underpin service delivery;
4. Agreed the values and principles of the partnership that guide the pathway and development of a strategy to integration;
5. Endorsed the statement of intent;
6. Agreed to remit to Officers of Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland (Argyll and Bute CHP) to develop a strategy for integration with the regular reporting of progress provided to Leaders of the partnership; and
7. Noted that the Chief Executive will provide regular progress reports to the Executive.

(Reference: Joint report by Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland, submitted)

**11. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO KINSHIP CARERS**

A report presenting a detailed and costed options appraisal of possible arrangements for the future financial support of kinship carers and identifying a preferred option was considered.

**Decision**

The Executive agreed:-

1. to endorse option 3 for the future financial support of kinship care arrangements with additional funding required for this proposal met by utilising an element of the supporting people budget reinstated by the Government in 2011/12;
2. that consideration is given to ongoing funding as part of the budget deliberations for future years;
3. that an action plan be developed to implement the preferred option; and
4. that a report be presented as part of the budget process for 2012/13 to update the Executive on the implementation of the preferred option.
The Leader ruled and the Executive agreed to adjourn the meeting at 2.30 pm to allow him to take a phone call from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning.

The Executive reconvened at 2.40 pm. Douglas Mackie did not return to the meeting.

12. **RECOGNITION OF THE ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS**

A report providing Members with information regarding the possibility of the Council marking the homecoming of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland on their return from their current tour of duty in Afghanistan was considered.

**Decision**

Agreed to the request made by the Bute and Cowal Area Committee that the Council marks the safe return of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders by provision of a Homecoming Parade in Dunoon during Summer 2011.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 20 May 2011, submitted)

13. **JURA FAST FERRY SERVICE**

Following the Executive of 21 April 2011 it was agreed that a meeting would be held with the Jura Development Trust. A report giving a summary of the meeting that was held on 12 May 2011 and making recommendations to assist with exceptional “one off” funding for the fast passenger ferry service between Jura to Tayvallich, for the duration of the 2011 Summer Service, until the findings of the Scottish Ferries Review are known was considered.

**Decision**

The Executive agreed to approve:-

1. the Business Gateway Team supporting and assisting development of a business model with the Jura Development Trust;

2. Argyll and Bute Council supporting the Jura Development Trust in their request for financial support from the Scottish Government and incorporating this within their response to the next stage of the Scottish Ferries Review;

3. the allocation of £24,000 grant funding to the Jura Development Trust from the General Fund unallocated reserve for 2011-2012 only to keep the service operational until the findings of the Scottish Government’s Ferries Review are known; and

4. the Head of Economic Development establishing what plans HIE has to support the Jura Development Trust in their request for financial support
from the Scottish Government, and in light of the current local economic concerns expressed by the Jura Development Trust as set out at Section 4, confirming what plans HIE has to support the Jura Development Trust beyond 2012.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services, tabled)

14. ROTHESAY TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE - SUCCESSFUL FUNDING APPLICATIONS

A report advising that Rothesay Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) has been successful in attracting funding from Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and LEADER and that the project will move to implementation phase and run for a period of five years was considered along with a recommendation from the CHORD Programme Management Board that the CHORD funding allocation approved for this project by the Council is now committed and drawn down in accordance with the THI criteria.

Decision

Agreed that the CHORD funding allocation approved for this project by the Council is now committed and drawn down in accordance with the THI criteria.


Councillors McNaughton and McQueen left the meeting.

15. PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE PRE-CONSULTATION DRAFT OF SCOTLAND’S NATIONAL MARINE PLAN

Marine Scotland is currently consulting on a pre-consultation draft of a National Marine Plan for Scotland, which will be followed by a further consultation late in 2011, with the aim of delivering a final marine plan during Spring/Summer 2012. A report providing background to Marine Scotland’s aims and objectives of the National Marine Plan and detailing the key issues that will form the final Council response to the specific consultation questions was considered.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report; and

2. Agreed to this report forming the basis of the Council’s formal response to the Marine Scotland consultation on a pre-consultation draft of Scotland’s Marine National Plan.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services, submitted)

The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public for the following 5 items of business on the
grounds that they were likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 8 and 9; 1, 8 and 9; 12; 12; and 6, 8 and 9 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

16. ARGYLL AIR SERVICES

A report updating the Executive on progress towards the development of a sustainable Business Plan, associated Implementation Plan and the procurement of future PSO flights and airport management and operations was considered.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

1. to note that the contract for the PSO Flight Service has been awarded to Hebridean Air Services;

2. to note that the resolution of matters between the Council and Argyll Aero Club has allowed the perimeter fence to be removed, which will allow the airport to operate at Category Two (with remission to Category Three);

3. to note that the revised and reduced staffing structure for the operation of the Airport at Category Two has been accepted by the Civil Aviation Authority;

4. to note that the strategic aims and priorities approved by the Executive on 4 November 2010 have been achieved to date. The sustainable financial business model which has been developed following the successful re-tender process, the achievement of mainstream funding within the finance settlement and the revised staffing structure provides the foundation to achieve the strategic aims and priorities in the future; and

5. that the successive monthly reporting of Argyll Air Services to the Executive cease.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 2 June 2011, submitted)

17. UK GOVERNMENT’S WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report providing the Executive with a detailed overview of the position of the Argyll and Bute Employability Team as a consequent of the introduction of the UK Government’s new Work Programme in June 2011.

Decision

Agreed the recommendations detailed in the report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services, submitted)
18. WASTE PPP CONTRACT - RESOLUTION OF VARIATIONS

A report advising the Executive on the current position in respect to the application of variations within the Waste PPP contract the Council currently has with Shanks Argyll and Bute Ltd/Shanks Waste Services Ltd was considered.

Decision

Noted the report and the actions taken by the Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services, submitted)

19. LAND IN HELENSBURGH

A report outlining the options available to the Council to resolve the outstanding legal issue with Luss Estates Company regarding the ownership of the Helensburgh Pier Head site was considered.

Decision

1. Agreed the recommendations detailed in the report; and
2. Noted the emergency powers invoked and used in respect of the Mariner’s site.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 13 May 2011, submitted)

20. SOURCING STRATEGY - SCHOOL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE REVIEW

As a result of the School and Public Transport Service Review and the required savings to be made from the procurement of transport, it was agreed that a Sourcing Strategy should be developed. The Procurement Team, in conjunction with the Commissioning Team, has developed a Strategy which was before the Executive for consideration.

Decision

1. Approved the Sourcing Strategy for future procurement of this commodity category, and that the Strategy is piloted in the Helensburgh and Lomond area as the contracts in this area are due for renewal in July 2011; and
2. Agreed that any lessons learned from the pilot should be reported on prior to embarking on the long term action plan.


Councillor Len Scoullar left the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item.