

**MINUTES of MEETING of POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL
CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD
on THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2016**

Present: Councillor Dick Walsh (Chair)

Councillor Rory Colville	Councillor Ellen Morton
Councillor Robin Currie	Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Maurice Corry	Councillor James Robb
Councillor Donald Kelly	Councillor Len Scoullar
Councillor Roderick McCuish	Councillor Isobel Strong
Councillor Alistair MacDougall	Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor Aileen Morton	

Also present: William Marshall, Teacher Rep Alison Palmer, Teacher Rep

Councillor Michael Breslin	Councillor Donald MacMillan
Councillor Vivien Dance	Councillor Alex McNaughton
Councillor Bruce Marshall	Councillor James McQueen
Councillor John MacAlpine	Councillor Elaine Robertson

Attending: Sally Loudon, Chief Executive
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director of Customer Services
Cleland Sneddon, Executive Director of Community Services
Pippa Milne, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services
Patricia O'Neill, Central Governance Manager
Kirsty Flanagan, Head of Strategic Finance
Peter Cupples, Finance Manager
Jane Jarvie, Communications Manager
Anne Marie Knowles, Head of Education

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Iain MacLean.

The Central Governance Manager advised that Councillor Donald Kelly had intimated his resignation from the Policy and Resources Committee before the agenda was issued for this meeting. She advised that Members would note that his name still appears on the agenda for the meeting and that Councillor Kelly had requested that it be clarified that he was no longer a member of the Committee. The Executive Director of Customer Services advised that this vacancy would be filled in due course.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

The Minute of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 December 2016 were approved as a correct record.

* **4. BUDGETING PACK**

(a) **Revenue Budget 2016 - 2017**

Consideration was given to the full package of papers included in the budget pack in relation to the Revenue Budget for 2016-2017. The budget pack included - Planning our Future Consultation – Findings Report; Service Choices – Assessing Equality Impact; Revenue Budget Overview; Fees and Charges; Revenue Budget Monitoring as at 31 December 2015; Financial Risks Analysis 2016-17; and Reserves and Balances. An amended page 270 of the Revenue Budget pack was tabled to the meeting.

Decision

The Committee agreed to refer this item, without recommendation, for consideration by the Council at their meeting on 11 February 2016.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Finance dated 3 February 2016 and Revenue Budget Pack for 2016-20, submitted; amended page 270, tabled)

(b) **Capital Plan 2016 - 2020**

Consideration was given to the full package of papers included in the budget pack in relation to the Capital Plan 2016 – 2020. The budget pack included – Capital Plan Summary; Corporate Asset Management Strategy; Corporate Asset Management Plan; and Service Asset Management Plans.

Decision

The Committee agreed to refer this item, without recommendation, for consideration by the Council at their meeting on 11 February 2016.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Finance and Capital Plan Budget Pack for 2016-20, submitted)

* **5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

A report setting out the Council's strategy for borrowing and investment for the forthcoming year along with the Council's Prudential Indicators which require to be set for a three year period was considered.

Decision

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council approval:-

1. of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy subject to review by the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee in February; and
2. of the removal of Abu Dhabi (UAE) and Qatar from the list of approved countries for investment.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Finance dated 3 February 2016 and Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2016-17, submitted)

6. FINANCIAL REPORTING 2015/16 SUMMARY

The Committee considered a report providing a summary of the financial monitoring reports as at the end of December 2015. The report provided summaries of the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 December 2015; Monitoring of Financial Risks; Reserves and Balances; Capital Plan Monitoring Report as at 31 December 2015; and Treasury Monitoring Report as at 31 December 2015.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

1. the Revenue Budget Monitoring report as at 31 December 2015;
2. the current assessment of the Council's financial risks;
3. the overall level of reserves and balances and monitoring of the earmarked reserves;
4. the Capital Plan Monitoring report as at 31 December 2015; and
5. the Treasury Monitoring report as at 31 December 2015.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Finance dated 26 January 2016, submitted)

7. COMPLIANCE WITH TEACHER NUMBERS COMMITMENT

At its meeting of 10 December 2015, the Community Services Committee considered a report updating Members on the Council's position in respect of meeting the teacher numbers commitment in relation to the financial settlement for 2015-16. As part of its decision the Committee agreed to refer the report to the Policy and Resources Committee to give consideration to the financial implications arising from the position represented in the report which was before this Committee for consideration.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. to note the report referred to the Policy and Resources Committee by the Community Services Committee; and
2. to note the position outlined in the letter from Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning in relation to the financial consequences arising from the 2015 -16 teacher numbers census.

(Reference: Reports by Executive Director – Community Services dated 12 November 2015 and 11 January 2016, submitted)

8. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee considered their Work Plan as at February 2016.

Decision

The Committee noted the Work Plan.

(Reference: Policy and Resources Committee Work Plan as at February 2016, submitted)