

**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD  
on THURSDAY, 21 APRIL 2016**

**Present:** Councillor Len Scoullar (Chair)

Councillor John Armour	Councillor Neil MacIntyre
Councillor Gordon Blair	Councillor Robert G MacIntyre
Councillor Michael Breslin	Councillor Donald MacMillan
Councillor Rory Colville	Councillor Alex McNaughton
Councillor Maurice Corry	Councillor James McQueen
Councillor Robin Currie	Councillor Bruce Marshall
Councillor Vivien Dance	Councillor Aileen Morton
Councillor Mary-Jean Devon	Councillor Ellen Morton
Councillor George Freeman	Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Anne Horn	Councillor James Robb
Councillor Donald Kelly	Councillor Isobel Strong
Councillor David Kinniburgh	Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor John McAlpine	Councillor Richard Trail
Councillor Roderick McCuish	Councillor Dick Walsh
Councillor Alistair MacDougall	

**Attending:** Sally Loudon, Chief Executive  
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director of Customer Services  
Pippa Milne, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services  
Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law  
Kirsty Flanagan, Head of Strategic Finance  
Malcolm MacFadyen, Head of Facility Services  
David Logan, Quality Improvement Officer

The Provost announced that 21 April 2016 was the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He advised that communities across Argyll and Bute were marking this occasion in various ways, including the lighting of special birthday beacons. He wished Her Majesty a very happy birthday and wished her many more years of good health. He thanked her on behalf of the people of Argyll and Bute for her long years of dedicated service and for all she had done for Argyll and Bute.

The Provost advised that he had received a letter from King Philippe of Belgium, thanking the people of Argyll and Bute for their condolences on the recent tragic events in his country.

The Provost ruled and the Council agreed that the business dealt with at item 23 of this Minute be taken as a matter of urgency by reason that the report dealt with a matter that had been raised at national level and had potential implications for the Council as an education authority.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robert E MacIntyre, Julie MacKenzie, Gary Mulvaney and Douglas Philand.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none intimated.

## 3. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 14

The Executive Director – Customer Services advised that in terms of Standing Order 14, the following Notice of Motion by Councillor Robin Currie, seconded by Councillor Roddy McCuish, had been received for consideration as a matter of urgency at this meeting.

The Council:

- Notes that the £1 billion 2016-24 Clyde and Hebrides ferry services (CHFS) contract will be awarded at the end of May and that the two bidders are public sector operator CalMac and private multinational Serco.
- Welcomes the Scottish Government's significant increases in public investment in ferry infrastructure and services, including six new vessels for the CHFS network by 2025.
- Notes ferry expert Jeanette Findlay of Glasgow University's report for the RMT union, "*Economic benefits of public sector provision on lifeline Clyde and Hebrides ferry services*" which found that CalMac is an efficient operator that spreads benefits across the Scottish economy whilst Serco's profit-seeking model restricts performance to contractual minimums and would increase risk to workers, communities, passengers and the taxpayer.
- Agrees that the council will write to the First Minister and the Transport Minister of the Scottish Government, urging them to bear in mind the conclusions of the Findlay report, in particular around retaining public sector operation of lifeline ferry services to the benefit of the Scottish economy and society as well as the quality of current ferry arrangements, when assessing and weighting the CalMac submission for the award of the next CHFS contract.

The Provost ruled, and the Council agreed, that the Motion be dealt with as a matter of urgency by reason that a view from the Council was required prior to the award of tenders. This Motion is dealt with at item 24 of this Minute.

## 4. MINUTES

### (a) **Argyll and Bute Council held on 11 February 2016**

The Minutes of the meeting of Argyll and Bute Council held on 11 February 2016 were approved as a correct record.

### (b) **Special Argyll and Bute Council held on 17 March 2016**

The Minutes of the Special meeting of Argyll and Bute Council held on 17 March 2016 were approved as a correct record.

## 5. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

### (a) **Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 February 2016**

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 February 2016 were noted. Councillor Donald Kelly advised that he was marked as being present at this meeting when he had in fact resigned from the Committee.

### (b) **Community Services Committee held on 10 March 2016**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 10 March 2016 were noted.

Arising from item 14, Strategic Housing Grants – Interim Arrangement, the Council agreed to approve the reduction in the Strategic Housing Fund Grant to £12K per unit thereby maintaining the status quo in terms of total grant subsidy to Registered Social Landlords developing affordable housing in Argyll and Bute.

Councillor Robert Graham MacIntyre joined the meeting at this point.

### (c) **Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 March 2016**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 March 2016 were noted.

Arising from item 6, Service Planning 2016-17, the Council considered a recommendation to approve the Service Plans for 2016-17 which had also been included on the agenda as item 7 for this meeting.

#### **Motion**

That the Council agree the Service Plans for 2016-17 as recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee.

Moved Councillor Dick Walsh, seconded Councillor Ellen Morton.

#### **Amendment**

That the Council agree to refer the Service Plans for 2016-17 back to the appropriate Service Committees for further consideration before being referred back to the Council for approval.

Moved Councillor James Robb, seconded Councillor Richard Trail.

#### **Decision**

Following a show of hands vote the Motion was carried by 18 votes to 12 and the council resolved accordingly.

Arising from item 7, Scottish Government Funding for Welfare Reform and

Discretionary Housing Payments – Report on Spend to Date and Future Proposals, the Council -

1. Noted the information provided in respect of progress made, and the estimate of projected expenditure to 31 March 2016 of £232.6k from the balance of Scottish Government funding for DHPs of £464.7k in March 2015.
2. Approved the continued carry forward of the balance of this as earmarked funds estimated at £232.1k and approved the proposals for their use as summarised at paragraph 4.20 of the submitted report.
3. Approved the carry forward of the balance of the unspent 2015/16 DHP monies estimated at £30,000 as earmarked funds to be used to fund DHP payments in 2016/17 in order to help maintain current priority levels into 2016/17.
4. Noted that a further report would be brought back to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on the progress with the proposals approved at decisions 2 and 3 above.

Arising from item 11, Business Loans Scotland, the Council noted that the appointment of an elected Member to represent Argyll and Bute's interests on the Board of Business Loans Scotland would be dealt with as part of item 11 of the agenda (Political Management Arrangements).

Arising from item 12, Long and Winding Way, the Council –

1. Agreed to grant funding to the LWW of £10,000 per annum for a three year period commencing April 2016; subject to -
  - a) the completion of a service level agreement with the LWW which requires that the LWW should continue to develop its partnership working with the Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust and its Long Distance Routes Forum,
  - b) evidence of financial viability for each year being presented to and approved by the Council before the release of each annual payment and;
  - c) that LWW be advised that this is the final financial support from the Council; to be funded from General Fund Balance.
2. Noted that if the LWW cannot find a sustainable way forward no financial burden would fall upon the Council.

Arising from item 13, Developing a Statutory Marine Plan for the Firth of Clyde, the Council –

- a) Agreed to be a Member of the Clyde MPP, to be represented by an officer from Development and Infrastructure Services;

- b) Agreed to accept the offer of a permanent position on the Partnership Board of the Clyde MPP, and seek appointment by Council of an elected member;
- c) Approved the constitution for the Clyde MPP, as detailed in Appendix 2; and;
- d) Gave consent to the draft Direction from Scottish Ministers delegating functions under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership, as detailed in Appendix 3.

The Council noted that the appointment of an elected Member to the Partnership Board of the Clyde MPP would be dealt with as part of item 11 of the agenda (Political Management Arrangements).

**(d) Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee held on 7 April 2016**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure committee held on 7 April 2016 were noted.

Arising from item 7, Northern Roads Collaboration, the Council noted expectations that roads authorities would take forward the design and delivery of a package of shared service initiatives and agreed to participate in the Northern Roads Collaboration Forum. The Council noted that nominations of the Chair and Vice Chair of the EDI Committee to the Forum would be dealt with under item 11 of the agenda (Political Management Arrangements).

Arising from item 11, Energy Efficiency Street Lighting Project Funding, the Council noted that this matter would be dealt with under item 20 of the agenda.

Arising from item 19, Enhanced Employability Pipeline, the Council endorsed the recommendations as contained within the Minute.

## **6. LEADER'S REPORT**

A report providing Members with an update on the activities of the Leader of the Council from 16 January 2016 to 31 March 2016 was considered. The report included an update on the budget meeting on 11 February 2016 and on a significant number of meetings with national politicians. The report also provided updates in respect of the Leader's role as Policy Lead Councillor for Finance, IT, HR and Governance and Law.

### **Decision**

The Council –

1. Noted the report.
2. Noted that the full leader's report pack was available in the Leader's Office.

(Reference: Report by Leader of the Council dated 14 April 2016, submitted)

## **7. POLICY LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

### **(a) Report by Policy Lead for Island Affairs**

The Council considered a report which provided an update on the main focus of work in relation to islands over the period November 2015 to March 2016.

#### **Decision**

The Council noted the content of the report.

(Reference: Report by Policy Lead Councillor for Island Affairs dated 30 March 2016, submitted)

### **(b) Report by Policy Lead for Strategic Housing, Gaelic, Community and Culture**

The Council considered a report highlighting developments within the portfolio of the Policy Lead for Community, Culture, Gaelic and Strategic Housing between September 2015 and March 2016.

#### **Decision**

The Council noted the content of the report.

(Reference: Report by Policy Lead for Community, Culture, Gaelic and Strategic Housing dated 1 April 2016, submitted)

### **(c) Report by Policy Lead for Transportation (Strategic, Local, Ferries, Piers, Harbours and Airports)**

The Council considered a report providing an update on the work carried out by the Policy Lead for Transportation (Strategic, Local, Ferries, Piers, Harbours and Airports) for the period October 2015 to April 2016.

#### **Decision**

The Council noted the content of the report.

(Reference: Report by Policy Lead for Transportation dated 9 April 2016, submitted)

## **8. SERVICE PLANNING 2016-17**

The Council noted that this matter had previously been dealt with under item 5c of this Minute - Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of 17 March 2016.

## **9. RECRUITMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

A report informing Members about the outcome of the recruitment and selection process for Chief Executive was considered.

## **Decision**

The Council –

1. Noted the decision of the Appointments Panel to appoint Cleland Sneddon to the post of Chief Executive, effective from 9 May 2016, and offered him their congratulations.
2. The Council noted the high quality of the candidates who participated in the selection process for the post.

(Reference: Report by Head of Improvement and HR dated 20 April 2016, submitted)

## **10. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER**

Following the departure of the Chief Executive from the Council on 6 May 2016, the post of Returning Officer would fall vacant. The Council considered a report inviting appointment of a Returning Officer.

### **Decision**

The Council –

1. Agreed to appoint, in terms of Section 41 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, with effect from 7 May 2016, Charles Reppke to be the Returning Officer and by that appointment to be the Counting Officer for the EU Referendum on 23 June 2016.
2. Noted that further consideration to the role of Returning Officer would be given at a future meeting, following the EU Referendum.

(Reference: Report by Chief Executive dated 30 March 2016, submitted)

## **11. OBAN, NORTH AND LORN BY-ELECTION RESULT**

The Council considered a report advising of the election of Councillor Julie MacKenzie to the Oban, North and Lorn Ward.

### **Decision**

The Council noted the content of the report.

(Reference: Report by Chief Executive dated 18 February 2016, submitted)

## **12. POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (Pages 17 - 18)**

The Council considered a report updating the Council on revised political management arrangements and on vacancies which had arisen on the Councils Committees and other outside bodies/organisations.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed to the following changes and arrangements to the Political Management arrangements of the Council :-

1. To appoint Councillor Roddy McCuish as Depute Policy Lead for Economic Development, European Affairs, Renewables and Strategic Tourism, replacing Councillor Corry in that role.
2. To invite the non- Administration Members on the Council to nominate members to fill the current vacancies on the Audit Committee, PRS Committee, Regulatory Cohort/PPSL Committee and Licensing Board with nominations being advised to the Executive Director of Customer Services.
3. To invite the Leader of the SNP Council Group to fill the current vacancies created by the recent member resignation on the Community Services Committee, the Harbour Board and the West of Scotland Archeological Service .
4. To appoint Councillor Roddy McCuish to the Argyll and Islands Task Force.
5. To appoint Councillor Mary-Jean Devon to the Argyll Ferry Users Group and to invite the SNP Opposition Group to nominate a member to fill the vacancy on the Argyll Ferry Users Group, replacing Councillor Elaine Robertson.
6. To appoint Councillor Dick Walsh to fill the elected member place on Business Loans Scotland.
7. To appoint Councillor John McAlpine to fill the elected Member place on the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership.
8. To appoint both the Chair and Vice Chair of the EDI Committee to the Northern Roads Collaboration Forum.
9. To delegate the implementation of all of the above to the Executive Director of Customer Services in consultation with the Leader and Depute Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Council's main opposition Group.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 22 March 2016, submitted)

### **13. SCHEME OF REMUNERATION FOR COUNCILLORS**

The Council considered a report advising of adjustments made to remuneration arrangements for Councillors in accordance with the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2016 which come into force on 1 April 2016.

#### **Motion**

That the Council –

1. Note the increased payments as detailed within the report.
2. Note that the arrears would be paid in the May pay run.
3. Agree a similar increase to the remuneration of senior councillors by 1% for 2016/17 with effect from 1 April 2016 to be consistent with national decisions on payments determined by statutory instrument.

Moved Councillor Dick Walsh, seconded Councillor Ellen Morton.

#### **Amendment**



That the Council –

1. Note the increased payments as detailed within the report.
2. Note that the arrears would be paid in the May pay run.
3. Do not agree a similar increase to the remuneration of senior councillors by 1% for 2016/17 with effect from 1 April 2016 to be consistent with national decisions on payments determined by statutory instrument.

Moved Councillor Sandy Taylor, seconded Councillor Richard Trail.

The requisite number of members present required the vote to be taken by calling the roll and members voted as follows –

**Motion**

Councillor Rory Colville  
Councillor Maurice Corry  
Councillor Robin Currie  
Councillor Mary-Jean Devon  
Councillor Donald Kelly  
Councillor David Kinniburgh  
Councillor John McAlpine  
Councillor Roderick McCuish  
Councillor Alistair MacDougall  
Councillor Robert G MacIntyre  
Councillor Donald MacMillan  
Councillor Alex McNaughton  
Councillor James McQueen  
Councillor Aileen Morton  
Councillor Ellen Morton  
Councillor Elaine Robertson  
Councillor Len Scoullar  
Councillor Dick Walsh

**Amendment**

Councillor John Armour  
Councillor Gordon Blair  
Councillor Michael Breslin  
Councillor Vivien Dance  
Councillor George Freeman  
Councillor Anne Horn  
Councillor Neil MacIntyre  
Councillor Bruce Marshall  
Councillor James Robb  
Councillor Isobel Strong  
Councillor Sandy Taylor  
Councillor Richard Trail

**Decision**

The Motion was carried by 18 votes to 12 and the Council resolved accordingly.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 23 March 2016, submitted)

Councillors James Robb and Sandy Taylor left the meeting at this point.

**14. MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM**

The Council considered a report updating them on current issues relating to the membership of the Local Licensing Forum. The report outlined proposals to review the range of businesses, agencies and local groups participating in the Forum in order to optimise its effectiveness.

**Decision**

The Council approved the proposal to refresh and extend the scope of Forum membership as detailed at section 4.4 of the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 6 April 2016, submitted)

#### **15. REVIEW OF CHARITABLE TRUSTS HELD BY ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL**

A report advising the Council of the decision by the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) to approve the proposal to transfer the funds held by the Norman Stewart Institute Trust to For Bute was considered.

##### **Decision**

The Council gave final authorisation to approve the payment of the remaining funds of the Norman Stewart Institute Trust (SC019601) to For Bute (SC044153) and to then wind up the trust and remove it from the OSCR Register.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 16 March 2016, submitted)

#### **16. ROTHESAY COMMON GOOD FUND**

The Council considered a report recommending a mechanism to enable the Rothesay Common Good Fund to determine applications for grants where attendance of all trustees of the Fund is not possible.

##### **Decision**

The Council agreed a delegation to the Executive Director – Customer Services to determine in consultation with available Bute ward members, applications to the Rothesay Common Good Fund on occasions where the attendance of all trustees of the Fund at a scheduled or arranged meeting of the Fund is not possible.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 21 January 2016, submitted)

Councillor Sandy Taylor returned to the meeting at this point. Councillor Michael Breslin left the meeting at this point.

#### **17. PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY REVIEW HANDBOOK (Pages 19 - 20)**

At their meeting on 25 February 2016, the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee considered a report prepared by the Chief Internal Auditor which provided a draft Performance Review and Scrutiny Handbook for approval. The Committee approved the Handbook and agreed to submit the handbook to Council for information.

##### **Motion**

- That the Council appreciates the work carried out by the PRS Committee and their drafting of the Performance and Scrutiny Review Handbook.

- The Council in noting the detail acknowledges that the draft handbook provides for the PRS Committee a framework to undertaking effective scrutiny and is proposed as a starting point for the Committee.
- The Council further notes the potential changes to the existing terms of reference of the PRS Committee from the proposals and the consequences for the Current Council Constitution.
- The Council agrees to set up a Short Life Working Group (SLWG) for the purpose of considering the future local democratic and governance arrangements of the Council, to consider also the detail in the proposed Performance and Scrutiny Review Handbook and how all of this will relate to future governance arrangements, and to bring forward a report to a future meeting of the Council in readiness for the new Council.
- To agree that the membership of the SLWG to consist of 12 members on an 8 to 4 split between Administration and Opposition members. The Chair of the SLWG to be the Council Leader and Vice Chair the Depute Council Leader.
- The Executive Director of Customer Services will be advised as to the names of the members to serve on the SLWG.

Moved by Councillor Dick Walsh, seconded by Councillor Ellen Morton.

### **Amendment**

- That the Council appreciates the work carried out by the PRS Committee and their drafting of the Performance and Scrutiny Review Handbook.
- The Council in noting the detail acknowledges that the draft handbook provides for the PRS Committee a framework to undertaking effective scrutiny and is proposed as a starting point for the Committee.
- The Council further notes the potential changes to the existing terms of reference of the PRS Committee from the proposals and the consequences for the Current Council Constitution.
- The Council agrees to set up a Short Life Working Group (SLWG) for the purpose of considering the future local democratic and governance arrangements of the Council, to consider also the detail in the proposed Performance and Scrutiny Review Handbook and how all of this will relate to future governance arrangements, and to bring forward a report to a future meeting of the Council in readiness for the new Council.
- To agree that the membership of the SLWG to consist of 12 members, the split between Administration and Opposition members taking into account the current political composition of the Council. The Chair of the SLWG to be the Council Leader and Vice Chair the Depute Council Leader.
- The Executive Director of Customer Services will be advised as to the names of the members to serve on the SLWG.

Moved Councillor George Freeman, seconded Councillor Gordon Blair.

### **Decision**

Following a show of hands vote the Motion was carried by 17 votes to 9 and the Council resolved accordingly.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 22 March 2016, submitted)

## **18. CASTLE TOWARD (Pages 21 - 22)**

The Council considered a report presenting a report on Castle Toward which had been prepared and agreed by the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 25 February 2016.

### **Decision**

The Council –

- Noted the level of internal and external scrutiny on the business related to the disposal of Castle Toward, their findings and conclusions.
- Noted the chronology of activity and reporting to the PRS Committee and their scrutiny of this business and the recommendations as set down in section 4 of their report.
- Noted the existence within the Council processes of the Working Group charged with looking at the implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the provisions of part 2 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and associated regulations related to the disposal and transfer of assets.
- Acknowledged and confirmed the detail in the Council's current Asset Transfer Policy document and the ongoing work of the above mentioned Working Group and agreed to review this Asset Transfer policy within the work of the proposed SLWG set up to look at future Governance arrangements of the Council.
- Noted the references by the PRS Committee to State Aid and its future guidance, to capital receipts monitoring reporting and agreed that officers will pick this work up as part of the normal operational activity and monitoring reporting.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 22 March 2016, submitted; and Notice of Motion by Councillor Ellen Morton, seconded by Councillor Roddy McCuish, tabled)

## **19. DEVELOPING A STATUTORY REGIONAL MARINE PLAN FOR THE FIRTH OF CLYDE**

An extract from the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee held on 16 March 2016 was before the Council for consideration.

### **Decision**

The Council noted that this had been dealt with under items 4c (Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of 17 March 2016) and 11 (Political Management Arrangements) of the agenda.

(Reference: Extract of Minutes of Meeting of Planning Protective Services and Licensing Committee held on 16 March 2016; and Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated February 2016, submitted)

## **20. ROTHESAY TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE PHASE TWO - HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND OFFER OF AWARD**

The Council considered a report requesting approval of the Heritage Lottery Fund Terms of Grant in relation to the first round grant award of £109,700 awarded to the Council on 26 January 2016.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed to the Heritage Lottery Fund Terms of Grant and delegated authority to the Chief Executive to sign and agree the terms with the Heritage Lottery Fund.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 29 February 2016, submitted)

## **21. ENERGY EFFICIENCY STREET LIGHTING PROJECT FUNDING**

The Council considered a report advising of an offer received from Salix for a £400,000 interest free loan in relation to the replacement of LED energy efficient luminaires in Argyll and Bute.

### **Decision**

The Council –

1. Approved the use of the Salix funding.
2. Agreed that, in order to meet the timescales, the first phase of the lighting project would be delivered by internal resource.
3. Agreed that the additional saving on borrowing would be used to borrow more capital in order to allow replacement of more columns.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 12 April 2016, submitted)

## **22. REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION RELATING TO THE RE-ALIGNMENT OF CATCHMENT AREAS OF ACHAOISH AND TARBERT PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

A report providing an update to the Council on the proposal that the Council re-align the catchment areas for Achahoish and Tarbert Primary Schools with effect from 16 August 2016 was considered.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed to –

1. Realign the catchment areas for Achahoish and Tarbert Primary Schools.
2. Pursue parental/guardian transport arrangements wherever possible for pupils from the rezoned area.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Community Services dated 22 March 2016, submitted)

### **23. CAMPBELTOWN NURSERY**

The Executive Director – Customer Services advised that this item was before the Council for procedural reasons and no longer required consideration. He further advised that the referral had been unable to come before the budget meeting due to the fact that the Council meeting was less than 21 days after the date of the Area Committee. It was noted that a request had been received from the mover of the motion, with the agreement of the seconder, to withdraw the motion but had also required agreement from the Area Committee on this occasion as the matter had been referred by them to the Council.

Councillor Donald Kelly left the meeting at this point.

### **24. NPDO SCHOOLS REMEDIAL REPAIRS**

The Council considered a report advising of remedial repairs carried out at Rothesay Joint Campus and Oban Primary Campus following issues identified following annual fabric condition surveys; and the further surveys being carried out that week across the NPDO school estate.

#### **Decision**

The Council noted the content of the report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 21 April 2016, tabled)

### **25. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 14**

In terms of Standing Order 14, the following Notice of Motion had been received for consideration as a matter of urgency –

#### **Motion**

The Council:

- Notes that the £1 billion 2016-24 Clyde and Hebrides ferry services (CHFS) contract will be awarded at the end of May and that the two bidders are public sector operator CalMac and private multinational Serco.
- Welcomes the Scottish Government's significant increases in public investment in ferry infrastructure and services, including six new vessels for the CHFS network by 2025.
- Notes ferry expert Jeanette Findlay of Glasgow University's report for the RMT union, "*Economic benefits of public sector provision on lifeline Clyde and Hebrides ferry services*" which found that CalMac is an efficient operator that spreads benefits across the Scottish economy whilst Serco's profit-seeking

model restricts performance to contractual minimums and would increase risk to workers, communities, passengers and the taxpayer.

- Agrees that the council will write to the First Minister and the Transport Minister of the Scottish Government, urging them to bear in mind the conclusions of the Findlay report, in particular around retaining public sector operation of lifeline ferry services to the benefit of the Scottish economy and society as well as the quality of current ferry arrangements, when assessing and weighting the CalMac submission for the award of the next CHFS contract.

Moved Councillor Robin Currie, seconded Councillor Roddy McCuish

### **Decision**

The Council agreed the terms of the Notice of Motion as above.

(Reference: Notice of Motion by Councillor Robin Currie, seconded by Councillor Roddy McCuish, tabled)

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 2 items of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## **26. NPDO SCHOOLS AFFORDABILITY REPORT**

The Council considered a report summarising progress in relation to the Council's NPDO project to the end of March 2016, and in particular, provided an update on the current financial position of the project.

### **Decision**

The Council noted the content of the report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated April 2016, submitted)

## **27. DUNCLUTHA CHILDREN'S HOUSE**

A report updating the Council on the tender process for the replacement of Dunclutha Children's House in Dunoon was considered.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed the recommendations as contained within the report.

(Reference: Joint report by Executive Director – Customer Services and Executive Director – Community Services dated 30 March 2016, submitted)

At the conclusion of the Council business the Provost advised that this was the last Council meeting that the Chief Executive, Sally Loudon, would be attending before

her departure from the Council to join COSLA as their Chief Executive. The Provost wished her well on behalf of the Council and invited the Leader and the Depute Leader of the Council to give a short speech and to present her with gifts on behalf of the Council. The Chief Executive expressed her thanks to the Council and gave a short speech.