

**MINUTES of MEETING of BUSINESS CONTINUITY COMMITTEE held BY SKYPE
on THURSDAY, 16 APRIL 2020**

Present: Councillor Aileen Morton (Chair)

Councillor Rory Colville	Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Robin Currie	Councillor Douglas Philand
Councillor Lorna Douglas	Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor Kieron Green	

Also Present:

Councillor Gordon Blair	Councillor Jean Moffat
Councillor Bobby Good	Councillor Barbara Morgan
Councillor David Kinniburgh	Councillor Alastair Redman
Councillor Jim Lynch	Councillor Elaine Robertson

Attending:

Pippa Milne, Chief Executive
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director
Kirsty Flanagan, Interim Executive Director
Louise Connor, Head of Education
Anne Paterson, Head of Education
David Logan, Head of Legal and Regulatory Support
Laurence Slavin, Interim Head of Financial Services
Jane Fowler, Head of Customer and Support Services
Fergus Murray, Head of Development and Economic Growth
Ross McLaughlin, Head of Commercial Services
Tricia O'Neill, Governance Manager
Marina Curran-Colthart, Local Biodiversity Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was intimated from Councillor Yvonne McNeilly.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

(a) Argyll and Bute Council Minute of 27 February 2020

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Argyll and Bute Council held on 27 February 2020 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Argyll and Bute Special Council Minute of Meeting of 31 March 2020

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Argyll and Bute Council held on 31 March 2020 were approved as a correct record.

4. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee of 5 March 2020

The Minute of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee held on 5 March 2020 were noted.

(b) Community Services Committee of 12 March 2020

The Minute of the Community Services Committee held on 12 March 2020 were noted.

5. LEADERSHIP REPORT

The Committee gave consideration to a report that updated them on the activities of the Leader of the Council and Policy Lead Councillors from 28 November 2019 to 16 April 2020. The report included an update from the Council Leader's activity during the period accompanied by high level updates for Policy Lead portfolios.

Decision

The Council:-

Noted the contents of the report.

Noted that any reports, briefings or copy correspondence referred to in the report can be requested as appropriate through Leadership Support staff, although it should be noted that some confidential reports provided by external organisations such as COSLA may be restricted.

(Ref: Report by Leader of the Council dated 7 April 2020, submitted)

6. COVID-19 - COUNCIL RESPONSE

The Committee considered a report which provided a high level overview of some of the key decisions and actions that have been taken across Council services in response to the pandemic, incorporating emergency legislation, government guidance and working in partnership with other responding agencies.

Decision

The Committee noted the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and noted the range of actions that have been taken across Council services in response to the pandemic.

The Committee also commended the hard work of all Council staff in putting in place the measures needed to support the community as a whole during this period.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support dated 1 April 2020, submitted)

7. COVID-19 - FINANCIAL MEASURES PUT IN PLACE BY GOVERNMENT

(a) BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Committee considered a report which summarised the various financial measures put in place by Government to support businesses as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Decision

The Committee noted the financial measures put in place by Government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

(Ref: Report by Interim Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth dated 7 April 2020, submitted)

(b) SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

The Committee considered a report which summarised the various financial measures put in place by Government to support businesses as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Decision

The Committee noted the financial measures put in place by Government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

(Ref: Report by Interim Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth dated 7 April 2020, submitted)

8. REVIEW OF HSCP INTEGRATION SCHEME

The Committee considered a report which advised of the proposed revisions to the Health and Social Care Integration Scheme as a result of a six week consultation exercise and were asked to approve the Integration Scheme as set out at Appendix 3 of the submitted report.

Decision

The Committee:

1. Noted the detail of the 45 responses received during the 6 week consultation period, set out in Appendices 1 and 2;
2. Agreed the revised Integration Scheme (Appendix 3), which had been further updated to take account of feedback received as part of the consultation process;
3. Noted that additional revisions to the Integration scheme may be required in respect of the power to delegate functions in terms of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, once in receipt of advice from the Scottish Government; and
4. Noted that a similar report was tabled at the NHS Highland Board on 31 March 2020 where the revised Integration scheme was approved; and
5. Agreed that the Chief Executives of the two parent bodies jointly submit the revised Scheme to the Scottish Government for their consideration, at the appropriate time.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support dated 3 March 2020, submitted)

9. CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 - TAXI FARE SCALE REVIEW

The Committee considered a report which advised that in terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Local Authority requires to fix maximum fares and other charges in connection with the hire of taxis operating in their area and to review the scales for taxi fares and other charges on a regular basis. The fares were last reviewed by members on 24th October 2018 and took effect on 22nd April 2019. The delay between the fares being reviewed and taking effect was due to an appeal being lodged with the Traffic Commissioner on 14th February 2019, which was later withdrawn.

Decision

The Committee:-

1. Agreed to commence the review of fares in order that this could be completed within the 18 months required in terms of the Act.
2. Agreed that the consultation required in terms of the Act will be in writing.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support dated 16 April 2020, submitted)

10. SKIPNESS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 - SKIPNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee considered a report which advised the Skipness Primary School has been mothballed since October 2016 and since that time has had no pupils enrolled. The Community Services Committee previously agreed to undertake the required preliminary consultation and an Options Appraisal which was carried out in accordance with Section 12A of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Committee agreed to note the outcome of the preliminary requirements and requested that officers formulate a draft proposal.

Decision

The Committee:-

1. Agreed to the extension of the current consultation period, due to end on 15 May 2020 to 31 August 2020.
2. Agreed that the public meeting scheduled for 5 May 2020 is cancelled and a new date established once the current UK/Scottish Government restrictions on public assemblies are reduced or lifted.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Education dated 31 March 2020, submitted)

11. DELAYING THE REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Committee considered a report which sought a delay to the review of the Council's Medium to Long term Financial Strategy due to the level of economic uncertainty created by Covid-19 outbreak and also the impact the outbreak has had on resource availability.

Decision

The Committee:

1. Approved a temporary cessation of the work to review and refresh the Council's Medium to Long term financial Strategy.
2. Noted that the S95 Officer will present the Budget Outlook report to the BCC as a standard agenda item until such time as the Policy and Resources Committee is reinstated.

(Ref: Report by the Section 95 Officer dated 2 April 2020, submitted)

12. LORN ARC TIF - PROGRESS APRIL 2020

The Committee considered a report which provided a short overview of the current status of the Lorn Arc Initiative and recommended that officers continue to engage with the Scottish Government, Scottish Future Trust and the private sector in an effort to progress the programme within the context of the Covid-19 response.

Decision

The Committee noted the update on the Lorn Arc Initiative and agreed that officers continue to engage with the Scottish Government, Scottish Futures Trust and the private sector to ensure the Lorn Arc can continue to be progressed subject to business case approval as appropriate and within the context of the current Covid-19 response.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth dated 16 April 2020, submitted)

13. CHORD - OBAN: NORTH PIER HARBOUR BUILDING AND NORTH PIER PONTOONS - PROJECT CLOSURE

The Committee considered a recommendation from the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee with regard to economic outcomes secured following the completion of the North Pier Harbour Building and the North Pier pontoons in Oban.

Decision

The Committee noted the decision of the OLI Area Committee and welcomed their commendation of the report.

(Ref: Recommendation by the OLI Area Committee of 11 March 2020, submitted)

14. COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING STRATEGY

The Committee considered a report which advised that the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires each local authority to produce a food growing strategy within two years of the Part 9 of the Act, which is due by April 2020. The finalised strategy reflects the established culture of growing our own food from individuals to allotments associations, community growing spaces, care homes and school gardens. The report sought approval for the adoption of the Strategy.

Decision

The Committee:

1. Agreed the contents of the finalised Argyll and Bute Council Community Food Growing Strategy which reflected the duties placed on local authorities arising from Part 9 – Allotments of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015;
2. Agreed that the Argyll and Bute Council Community Food Growing Strategy be adopted by the Committee in April 2020 in order to meet our duty under the Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015; and
3. Noted the Waiting List Register update and the Allotments Rules and Regulations which reflects the duties placed on local authorities arising from Part 9 – Allotments of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

(Ref: Report by Executive Directors with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth and Legal and Regulatory Support dated 1 April 2020, submitted)

15. 2020/21 BUDGET UPDATES

The Committee noted the 2020/21 Budget Update with regard to Health and Social Care Partnership funding.

16. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

The Committee noted the report with regard to the appointment of the Chief Social Work Officer.