

**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY,
LOCHGILPHEAD
on THURSDAY, 28 JUNE 2012**

Present: Provost Isobel Strong (Chair)

Councillor Blair	Councillor R E Macintyre
Councillor Breslin	Councillor R G MacIntyre
Councillor Colville	Councillor McNaughton
Councillor Corry	Councillor McQueen
Councillor Dance	Councillor Marshall
Councillor Devon	Councillor A Morton
Councillor Freeman	Councillor E Morton
Councillor Glen-Lee	Councillor Mulvaney
Councillor Hall	Councillor Philand
Councillor Horn	Councillor Robb
Councillor Kinniburgh	Councillor Robertson
Councillor McCuish	Councillor Scoullar
Councillor MacDonald	Councillor Semple
Councillor MacDougall	Councillor Taylor
Councillor D MacIntyre	Councillor Trail

Attending:

Douglas Hendry, Executive Director of Customer Services
Cleland Sneddon, Executive Director of Community Services
Sandy Mactaggart, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure
Bruce West, Head of Strategic Finance
Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law
Angus Gilmour, Head of Planning
Robert Pollock, Head of Economic Development

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated from Councillors Currie, Kelly, McAlpine, MacMillan, Walsh and William Crossan (Church rep).

2. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 14

The Provost advised that she had been advised of a motion proposed by Councillor Colville, seconded by Councillor McNaughton in respect of concerns around the closure of the A83 at the Rest & be Thankful, and seeking action by the Council to contact the relevant Minister and other related parties. The Provost advised that she had reviewed the terms of the motion and that she was aware that matters referred to were already being taken forward by the Council.

The Provost ruled that she considered that the motion was not urgent and the Motion will be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

3. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

The Provost ruled, and the Council agreed, that the business dealt with at item 18 of this Minute be taken as a matter of urgency as a decision on this was required before the

next ordinary meeting of the Council.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee declared a non-financial interest at item 13 (Oban BIDS Business Plan), left the room and took no part in the discussion on this item.

Councillor Gordon Blair declared a non-financial interest at item 16 (Notice of Motion Under Standing Order 13, Cowal Highland Gathering) as he was a member on the Cowal Highland Gathering Group.

5. MINUTES

(a) Argyll and Bute Council - 14 June 2012

The Council approved the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 14 June 2012 as a correct record.

(b) Special Committee for Older Peoples Services and Learning Disability Services - 22 June 2012

The Council noted the Minutes of the Special Committee for Older Peoples Services and Learning Disability Services of 22 June 2012.

6. REPORTS ON FINANCIAL YEAR END 2011/12

(a) 2011/12 Unaudited Financial Statements - Covering Report by Head of Strategic Finance

The Head of Strategic Finance presented the unaudited accounts for the year to 31 March 2012. The balance on the General Fund has increased by £0.665m and the balance on the General Fund Reserve is £34.572m. There are substantial sums earmarked and committed in the General Fund Reserve amounting to £29.454m. The free General Fund Reserve is £5.118m, this unallocated balance represents 2.0% of the Council's budgeted net expenditure for 2012-13.

Decision

The Council noted the unaudited accounts.

(Ref: Report by the Head of Strategic Finance dated 20 June 2012, unaudited financial statement for the year end 31 March 2012, submitted)

(b) Revenue Budget Monitoring for the Year 2011/12

The Council considered a report which summarised the revenue budget position of the Council as at the end of the financial year 2011-12.

Decision

The Council noted the revenue budget monitoring position as at the end of the financial year 2011-12.

(Ref: Report by the Head of Strategic Finance dated 20 June 2012, submitted)

(c) Capital Plan Monitoring Report 31 March 2012

The Council considered a report which summarised the position for all services on the capital plan as at 31 March 2012. The report compared the actual outturn expenditure against budget for the whole of 2011-12, and total project forecast and budget expenditure. Appendix 1 to the report showed the knock on effect of slippage to the 2012-13 approved capital plan.

Decision

The Council noted the capital plan position.

(Ref: Report by the Head of Strategic Finance dated 20 June 2012, submitted)

(d) Treasury Management Annual Report 2011/12

The Council considered a report which summarised the key points from the treasury management annual report. Preparation of the annual report is a requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Local Authorities.

Decision

Noted the annual treasury management report for 2011-2012.

(Ref: Report by the Head of Strategic Finance dated 20 June 2012 and annual treasury report, submitted)

(e) Annual Efficiency Statement 2011/12

The Council considered a report which advised that local authorities have a continuing role to demonstrate the efficiency gains delivered each year and as part of this role, Council's must publish an Annual Efficiency Statement each year. The draft statement was submitted for noting.

Decision

The Council noted the contents of the Annual Efficiency Statement 2011-2012.

(Ref: Report by the Head of Strategic Finance dated 15 June 2012, submitted)

7. POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Council, at their meeting on 14 June 2012, had referred further consideration of the report by the Short Life Working Group to this meeting. The report made recommendations about future Political Management Arrangements.

The Executive Director of Customer Services advised the Council that he had received notification from Councillor Vivien Dance that she was no longer a member of the Independent Councillors and would have no affiliation to any political group.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- 1 To note the Report by the Short Life Working Group on Political Management Arrangements.

- 2 That the Executive Committee is discontinued and that all previously delegated powers revert to the Council.
- 3 That in terms of structure, the Planning Protective Services and Licensing Committee and the Regulatory Cohort are fit for purpose and that no changes to their remit, composition or membership are made and to invite a nomination for the vacant position.
- 4 That the Audit Committee, Special Committee for Adult Services and the CHORD Programme Management Board are fit for purpose and that no changes to their remit, composition or membership are made.
- 5 That Area Committees, Community Planning Groups and Business Days be held as detailed in Appendix 1 below.
- 6 That Policy and Performance Groups and the Roads and Transportation Working Group are discontinued and that the functions of these are carried out by the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee and Short Life Working Groups as appropriate.
- 7 To adjust the Constitution to provide for the creation of Short Life Working Groups by the Council on the basis set out in Appendix 2 and to remit the Executive Director of Customer Services to modify the Constitution to regulate the procedures of such groups
- 8 To establish a Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee on the basis set out in the Appendix 3 and
 - i) That there are 11 Members appointed to this Committee consisting 4 from the Opposition, 3 Members of the Administration (none of whom shall be Lead Councillors) and 3 CPP Partner nominees and 1 independent Chair.
 - ii) That this Committee shall meet on a quarterly basis and to remit to the Executive Director of Customer Services to propose a suitable programme of meetings.
 - iii) That Councillors Blair, McAlpine and MacDonald be appointed and invited the Opposition to appoint 4 members. The opposition Councillors are D MacIntyre, E Morton, Mulvaney and Walsh.
 - iv) To remit to the Executive Director of Customer Services to bring forward nominations in respect of CPP appointments and to undertake a process to bring forward a nomination for the appointment of an independent Chair, who shall when appointed hold office until the next ordinary election unless the Council determines otherwise.
- 9 To instruct the Director of Customer Services to bring to a future Council meeting a paper to address the remit and powers of Area Committees and Community Planning Groups with a view to enhancing and strengthening local engagement and decision making.
- 10 To authorise the Executive Director of Customer Services to make any changes required to the Constitution to reflect the decisions made herein in respect of the Political Management Arrangements of the Council and to report to the Council with a revised Scheme of Administration and Delegations as necessary.
- 11 To instruct the Executive Director of Customer Services to prepare a Programme of meetings for 2012/13 in light of decisions taken at this meeting.

Appendix 1 – Area Meetings

- 1.1 Area Committee Meetings will be held in February, April, June, August, October and December. All meetings will be held in the morning; Bute and Cowal will meet on the first Tuesday of the relevant month, MAKI on the first Wednesday, Helensburgh & Lomond on the second Tuesday and OLI on the second Wednesday.
- 1.2 Area Community Planning Groups shall, subject to the agreement of partners, meet quarterly in March, June, September and December in the afternoon of the same day of that month as stated in 1.1 above.
- 1.3 Agenda items that are common to all four Areas will be considered within the space of seven working days thereby ensuring efficient progression of matters

- which are corporate or common to either the Council or any Core Partners.
- 1.4 Area Business Days will be held January, March, May, September and November. All meetings will be held in the morning; Bute and Cowal will meet on the first Tuesday of the relevant month, MAKI on the first Wednesday, Helensburgh & Lomond on the second Tuesday and OLI on the second Wednesday.
- 1.5 In addition Members will be involved in one Area Forum in November each year, similar to the previously held Forward Together Events, subject to agreement from community planning partners to support and participate in the events.

Appendix 2 – Short Life Working Groups (SLWGs)

- 2.1 SLWGs will be appointed in terms of the Scheme of Administration and Delegations which is referred to in Standing Order 26.
- 2.2 Standing Orders 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1 – 3.5, 7.1 – 7.4 and 17.1 will apply to meetings of any Short Life Working Group.
- 2.3 Meetings of SLWGs

2.3.1 Without prejudice to the general right of the Council, to appoint a SLWG at any time, a minimum of any six Members may propose that a SLWG should be established; the following procedure will apply to the establishment of a Group on its proposal by Members.

2.3.1.1 The Members concerned will set out in a notice to be given to the Executive Director of Customer Services the matters on which it is proposed the Group should be asked to provide advice, together with such other relevant material as the members concerned consider the Council might usefully require in order to reach a decision whether or not to establish such a Group.

2.3.1.2 The Executive Director of Customer Services will include the proposal, together with the written material provided by the Members, on the agenda for the next following ordinary meeting of the Council.

2.3.1.3 In considering a proposal (whether or not submitted in terms of sub-paragraph (1) above) to establish a SLWG, the Council may (a) determine that, instead of appointing a Group, the matter contained in the proposal may be added to the Terms of Reference of an existing Group or (b) in the circumstances where (a) does not apply the Council shall resolve either to require a report from the appropriate officer on the implications of establishing such a group in respect of the resources required to take forward the work of the group, the current status (if any) of Council policy on the matter and any other matters relevant to their deliberations to a future meeting of the Council or (c) decline to establish such a group without further deliberation

2.3.1.4 When a SLWG is established, the Council will appoint the Members of the Group, appoint two of those Members who are Councillors to be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Group respectively, specify the matters on which the Group is to provide advice, specify the timescale within which the Group is to submit its report or recommendations and any other ancillary matters regarding the operation of the Group as may be desirable.

2.3.1.5 Whilst normally a SLWG will report and provide advice to the Council, the Council when establishing a Group may direct that the SLWG reports, instead or in addition, to another constituent part of the Council.

2.3.1.6 At the end of the period mentioned in sub-paragraph (4) of this Standing Order the Group will cease to exist unless before the end of that period the appointing body has substituted a revised period.

2.3.1.7 It will be open to the Council at any time in the event that it considers the resources available to support the work of SLWGs are insufficient, to agree that no further Groups should be established or that the number in total should be limited. If such a decision is made no proposal to establish a SLWG

Group which would be contrary to the Council resolution shall be considered unless and until the Council has altered or rescinded that resolution.

2.3.2 The arrangements for meetings of a SLWGs will be a matter for the Group concerned, but the chair of a Group may for good cause cancel or alter the place, date or time for a meeting of a Group and may call a meeting of a Group on dates in addition to those already decided by the Group, but not after the summons for the meeting has been issued.

2.3.3 In addition to any report or paper submitted by an Officer of the Council, any Member of a SLWG may, in relation to any research which she/he may have undertaken, submit a report or paper for consideration by the Group, provided that report or paper is made available in time for inclusion with the agenda of business for the meeting, and any other Member of the Council may similarly submit such report or paper and may speak to the SLWG in relation to that report or paper.

2.3.4 In addition to the consideration of any report or paper submitted by a Member or Officer, a SLWG may seek and/or consider a report, paper or presentation from other persons, whether inside or outside the Council, but such persons shall not participate as Members of the Group.

2.3.5 While the minimum quorum for an effective meeting of a SLWG to take place will be three Members of the Group, the report or reports of the Group which contain the advice and recommendations of the Group will require to be considered at a meeting of the Group at which at least half of the Members of the Group are present.

2.3.6 The content of the advice or recommendations which any Group provides will be reached if possible by consensus amongst the Members of the Group, and in the event of any difference of view which will be determined in accordance with these Standing Orders as they would apply to a meeting of a Committee of the Council, the report or reports of the Group will in addition to the advice and recommendations of the Group include a note setting out the views of those Members who may not concur with that advice or those recommendations. Other decisions by the Group relating to their procedure and operation will be reached in accordance with these Standing Orders as they would apply to a meeting of a Committee of the Council.

Appendix 3 - Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee

The Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee will have delegated powers in terms of the Scheme of Administration and Delegations which is referred to in Standing Order 26, in terms of the terms of reference outlined below and shall be a committee of the Council to which the standing orders of the Council shall apply.

The Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for the following:

Performance Review

- (1) Reviewing performance when viewed against policy objectives arising from:
 - a) The Planning and Performance Management Framework and the quarterly performance reports to committee.
 - b) External inspection reports e.g. School Inspections.
 - c) The Community Planning Partnership and other major partnership projects.
 - d) Specific performance reports requested by the committee.
 - e) Ad hoc performance reports presented to the Committee by Chief Officials.
 - f) Any other reports of a performance-related nature.
- (2) Making recommendations to the Council on performance matters in relation to (1) above.

Scrutiny

- (1) Monitoring the delivery of corporate improvement programmes and ensuring that

they are progressing in line with corporate aims and objectives. Reporting the findings and recommendations to the Council.

(2) Commenting on decisions and policies agreed by the Council and other committees and the impact they have on Argyll and Bute as an area, and making recommendations as appropriate to the Council.

(3) Inviting Lead Councillors to attend and elaborate on Council decisions or proposals.

(Ref: Report by Short Life Working Group dated May 2012, submitted)

(a) Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee and Regulatory Cohort Resignation

The Council, at its meeting on 14 June 2012, had referred consideration of this report to this meeting. Following the resignation of Councillor Robert E Macintyre from the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee and the Regulatory Cohort, the Council were invited to nominate a Member to sit on the PPSL Committee and the Regulatory Cohort.

Decision

The Opposition declined the appointment and the Administration agreed to consider a nomination and report to a future meeting of the Council.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services dated June 2012, submitted)

8. INFORMAL REFERENDUM ON COLQUHOUN SQUARE, HELENSBURGH

The Council considered a report which advised Members of the position both in relation to the recent referendum and current tendering exercise recently conducted regarding the proposed works to be carried out under the Helensburgh CHORD Project.

The Provost adjourned the Meeting at 12.05pm and re-convened at 12.20pm.

Motion

The Council:

1. Notes the report.
2. Instructs officers to progress Option 3 to completion in consultation with the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Leader and the Helensburgh Project Board.
3. Instructs officers to:
 - a) Investigate other potential applications for the SPT funding for transport projects within or adjacent to Helensburgh town centre and/or
 - b) Negotiate an agreement with SPT to roll forward the allocated funding into future years.

Moved by Councillor Robb, seconded by Councillor Freeman.

Amendment

That the Council:

1. Notes the result of the hastily organised informal referendum on the Colquhoun Square part of the Helensburgh Chord Project and notes that the majority of those who voted preferred Option 3.
2. Notes that 560 people out of an electorate of nearly 19,000 will determine the future of the town centre, this representing less than 3% of the electorate.
3. Regrets that there were no consultants on hand at the referendum to answer questions and resolve queries on the three options presented and inform decision making, unlike all the different events and processes described in Appendix 1.
4. Regrets that no account has been taken of the previous elements of consultation in forming a balanced view on the option to be pursued.
5. Regrets that under Option 3, the estimated start date for the project has been pushed back to March 2013 at the earliest.
6. Regrets that the referendum denied the opportunity to vote to residents who were unable to get to the only polling place in the whole of Helensburgh & Lomond through illness, disability, distance or holiday.
7. Regrets that Councillors are seeing the comments from local people and the detail of the paper only today at the Council meeting with no opportunity to see how best these aspirations could be incorporated into the project.
8. Welcomes the Administration's commitment to strengthen the role of Area Committee's and in that vein:
 - a) Instructs the Executive Director to bring forward a paper to a Special Meeting of the Area Committee which will
 - i. Summarise for members, all elements of consultation since the projects inception including the recent informal referendum.
 - ii. Advise members of any potential design amendments, options, composite designs that would reflect elements of the consultation whilst still ensuring that work can begin on the ground during 2012.
 - b) Delegates the approval of the final design to the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee.
 - c) Requests that the Special Committee meeting takes place in August.
 - d) Following approval by the CHORD programme board, instructs the Executive Director of Customer Services, to take such action as may be necessary in terms of procurement and planning legislation and any other necessary steps to allow physical work on the PRI to begin before Christmas.
9. Ring fences the £6.6 million to the Helensburgh Chord Project so that it cannot be removed regardless of any delay.
10. Regrets the decision by the current administration to remove representatives of Community Councils and local Chambers of Commerce from the Chord Project Board thus minimising the involvement of the local community.
11. Notes that the original remit for the project was economic regeneration and the consultation in carrying out the informal referendum and consultation, including

the design fees for the new options; the mailshot to all households, the officer time costed in promoting, organising and running the referendum/consultation.

12. Note the risk to the project from the potential loss of the SPT money.

Appendix 1

HELENSBURGH CHORD – PREVIOUS CONSULTATION

Postcards went out February 2010 – 86 replies from 7,500 households
Perception questionnaire – sent out to 1,000 people, 240 responses
Businesses consulted through 100 street interviews
Strathclyde Police were met and consulted
2 days – 8 & 9 March 2010 – open day in Colquhoun Square – 77 people contributed comments
Future walks programme involving groups representing constituents with mobility issues – 125 people took part
Option appraisal process – 57 people contributed to that
Open day in May 2010 – over 100 people took part
Meetings with taxi operators, letters to bus operators, meetings with the West Kirk and St Columba's Churches, with Enable, Tree Trust and Horticultural Society
Exhibition for 4 days – 21 – 25 June 2010 in Helensburgh Library
Meeting with matron at Waverly Ct to discuss town centre access issues Feb 2011
Presentation to Civic Society in Feb 2011
Second public exhibition in April 2011
Repeated meetings with Chamber of Commerce, including their transport group in June 2011
Meeting with Helensburgh Rotary Club June 2011

Moved by Councillor Mulvaney, seconded by Councillor E Morton.

The requisite number of Members required the vote to be taken by calling the roll, and Members voted as follows:-

Motion

Councillor Blair
Councillor Breslin
Councillor Devon
Councillor Freeman
Councillor Glen-Lee
Councillor Hall
Councillor Horn
Councillor McCuish
Councillor MacDonald
Councillor R E Macintyre
Councillor R G MacIntyre
Councillor Philand
Councillor Robb
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Semple
Councillor Strong
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Trail

Amendment

Councillor Colville
Councillor Corry
Councillor Dance
Councillor Kinniburgh
Councillor MacDougall
Councillor D MacIntyre
Councillor McNaughton
Councillor McQueen
Councillor Marshall
Councillor A Morton
Councillor E Morton
Councillor Mulvaney
Councillor Scoullar

Decision

The Motion was carried by 18 votes to 13 and the Council resolved accordingly.

(Ref: Report by the Executive Directors of Customer Services and Development and Infrastructure Services dated 28 June 2012, tabled)

9. APPOINTMENT OF ARMED FORCES CHAMPION

The Council previously continued consideration of a proposal to appoint an Armed Forces Champion to take on the task of ensuring that local service provision is mindful of the needs of Service Veterans. The report by the Executive Director of Customer Services invited the Council to give further consideration to the matter.

Decision

Councillor Maurice Corry was appointed as the Armed Forces Champion and instructed the Executive Director of Customer Services to report to a future meeting on the role and remit.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services dated 20 June 2012, submitted)

The Provost adjourned the meeting at 1.30pm and re-convened at 2.00pm.

10. SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAMME

The Council considered a report which provided members with an update on the Campbeltown and Dunoon schools projects and outlined proposals for future steps.

Decision

The Council:-

1. Noted the current position.
2. Agreed that officers take forward the Campbeltown Grammar School project in accordance with the process as set out in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9 of the submitted report.
 - 1) (a) review whether there are other options that may be preferred in regard to the new build, refurbishment, amalgamation or otherwise of the current Dunoon, St Mun's and Kirn Primary Schools, as set out in paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18 of the submitted report, and
 - (b) take forward the review of the project governance arrangements, and liaise with the SFT and Scottish Government, as set out in paragraphs 3.20 to 3.25 of the submitted report.

(Ref: Report by Executive Directors of Community and Customer Services dated 28 June 2012, submitted)

11. CONSERVATION AREA REGENERATION SCHEME (CARS) ROUND FIVE - OPTIONS APPRAISAL

The Council considered a report which provided information on the background to CARS Round 5 grant funding bid, identified the key issues for consideration and the conclusion of the options appraisal undertaken for the five short listed conservation

areas/settlements.

Decision

The Council:-

1. Noted the contents of the report.
2. Agreed to the outcome of the options appraisal undertaken for the five shortlisted settlements/conservation areas and the identification of Inveraray as the priority town.
3. Agreed to Inveraray as the preferred settlement/conservation area for a submission to CARS Round Five deadline of 31 August 2012.
4. The CARS funding bid will be developed on the basis of conditional match funding from the Council. The Business case for the CARS bid and related requirement for match funding be developed for consideration within the budget setting process and timetable for 2013-14.
5. Agreed that the supplementary estimate of £35,000 be made available to allow the appointment of a conservation area accredited consultants to undertake the necessary development work (identification of scope and full costs) in order to ensure the development of a robust CARS bid.
6. Agreed to delegate approval for the submission of the CARS bid to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services subject to approval from the Chief Executive, Head of Strategic Finance and in consultation with Lead Councillor, John Semple.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services dated June 2012, submitted)

12. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION REPORTS ON PLANNING REFORM

The Council is being asked to respond to 5 X Scottish Government Consultation papers which sought views from all sectors of the development industry on proposed changes to the Scottish Planning System which is part of the Scottish Governments modernisation regime. Views were sought via a series of questions set out in the Appendix to the report.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report.
2. Endorsed the feedback to the specific questions as contained at the Appendix for submission to Scottish Government with the addendum to the comments on higher fees for retrospective applications.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services dated June 2012, submitted)

13. OBAN BIDS BUSINESS PLAN

The Council considered the first Business Improvement District (BID4Oban) Business Plan for the Oban area which required to have Council support prior to the formal

submission of the Business Plan to the Council and the Scottish Government.

Decision

1. The Council endorsed the Council's commitment to the Oban BID contained within final draft BID4Oban Business Plan and agreed that, subject to a successful ballot, over the 5 year duration of the Business Plan it will:-
 - a) Provide a direct financial contribution of £15k per annum to the BID4Oban, equivalent to 10% of the annual levy of c. £150k, and
 - b) To provide £5k per annum of additional financial support to finance the cost of administering the annual levy collection, and
 - c) To provide £4.5k per annum in terms of the Council's contribution (based upon its property holdings) to the annual levy of c. £150k.
2. A supplementary estimate is provided for the cost of the BID period in 2012/13 estimated at £12,250.
3. Provision is made in the 2013-14 budget for the remaining annual costs of £24,500.
4. That the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services be mandated to accept the formal submission of the BID4Oban Business Plan on 29 June, and to confirm the Council's support for the BID4Oban Business Plan to BIDs Scotland thereafter.
5. That the Executive Directors of Development and Infrastructure and Customer Services bring forward future policy proposals for consideration by the Council, which will formulise and provide a clear policy framework which will inform and define the extent of any future Council support (staff, financial or other) towards any subsequent BIDs proposals within Argyll and Bute.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services dated 28 June 2012, submitted)

14. APPOINTMENT PANEL: HEAD TEACHER POSTS

The Council considered a report which advised that it had been the policy of the Council for some years to have an elected member of the Council as Chair of the interview panel for appointing Head Teachers. The Council is being asked to amend the current policy by removing elected members from the interview panel for appointing Head Teachers.

Motion

That the Chairperson of the selection panel to interview applicants for Head Teacher posts be drawn from members of the Senior Management Team of the Education Service.

Moved by Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Semple.

Amendment

That the process for head teacher appointments including parent council representation and elected member involvement be as existing and that any necessary training be provided to elected members.

Moved by Councillor E Morton, seconded by Councillor Marshall.

Decision

On a show of hands vote, the Motion was carried by 16 votes to 9 and the Council resolved accordingly.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Community Services dated 15 June 2012, submitted)

15. ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

The Council considered a report which set out the aim of the Community Covenant Pledge and recommended that Argyll and Bute Council along with NHS Highland and Argyll Voluntary Action agree to support the armed forces community within Argyll and Bute by signing the Argyll and Bute Armed Forces Community Covenant. The Provost welcomed Commodore Mike P Wareham, Derek Leslie (NHS) and Gillian Barclay (Argyll Voluntary Action) to the Council Meeting and the Covenant was duly signed by all including the Leader of the Council.

Decision

The Council:-

1. Noted the contents of the report.
2. Recognised the sacrifice made by members of the armed forces, particularly those who have given the most, and
3. Commit to supporting current and former Armed Forces personnel and their families working and residing in Argyll and Bute by signing the Argyll and Bute Community Covenant.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Community Services dated 28 June 2012, submitted)

16. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 13

That this Council:

- a) Recognises and values the dedication and commitment of the volunteers and management who stage the Cowal Highland Gathering which contributes to the economic viability and sustainability of the local community and is a significant and prestigious cultural event for the whole of the Argyll and Bute area.
- b) Is committed to promoting equality and endeavours to ensure that all youngsters who reside in Argyll and Bute have equity of opportunity to achieve their aspirations, ambitions and potential.
- c) Agrees that the management of the Cowal Highland Gathering be advised that the current discriminatory practice in the Highland Dancing competition whereby Helensburgh and Lomond dancers are excluded from the Argyllshire Championships ceases from 2013 onwards as a condition of the continuation of all funding, both "in kind" and through the SLA, provided by Argyll and Bute Council.

- d) Agrees that the management of the Cowal Highland Gathering be advised that the definition of Argyll and Bute in all of the competitions at the event from 2013 onwards reflects the current boundary of the local authority as a condition of the continuation of council funding.

Moved by Councillor Dance, seconded by Councillor Corry.

Decision

The Notice of Motion was withdrawn by the mover and seconder.

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

17. RECOMMENDATION FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Quality Assurance and Contract Monitoring Arrangements – Care at Home Home Care Services Tender Review

The Special Committee for Older People's Services and Learning Disability Services had recommended to the Council issues regarding Quality Assurance and Contract Monitoring Arrangements – Care at Home and Home Care Services Tender Review. The Council considered the recommendations by the Special Committee.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the reports and the recommendations by the Special Committee for Older People's Services and Learning Disability Services.
2. Agreed that Home Care Services in Lorn, Bute, Cowal and Helensburgh and Lomond be externalised as per the report and instructs the Executive Director of Community Services to take this forward.
3. Agreed that no further action be taken meantime in respect of the service in area of Argyll and Bute not covered by (2) above.
4. Noted the cost savings arising from this decision and directs the Executive Director of Community Services to apply part of that to increase by 10% the payments to cover carer support organisations under existing Service Level Agreements / Contracts.
5. Instruct the Director of Community Services to bring back to the Council a paper to further explain the supervision of this service and how quality assurance can be built into service delivery.

(Ref: Extract by Special Committee and report by Executive Director of Community Services dated June 2012, tabled)

18. ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING IN OBAN

The Council considered a report which advised of the short term measures proposed as

a pilot to improve traffic management and the availability of on street parking in Oban. Entering a pilot arrangement with the police will provide an opportunity to monitor the effectiveness of additional on street enforcement.

Decision

The Council agreed:-

1. That a Service Level Agreement (SLA) be negotiated with Strathclyde Police for Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in the Oban area.
2. The SLA to operate on a pilot basis from July to September 2012 with a further report to the Area Committee / Council thereafter; and
3. The terms and conditions of the SLA, and the arrangements for monitoring the operation and effectiveness of the pilot to be agreed by the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services in consultation with the Area Lead Councillor for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, Roads and Amenity Services and Energy, Development, Infrastructure and Tourism.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services dated 28 June 2012, tabled)