

**MINUTES of MEETING of EXECUTIVE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY,
LOCHGILPHEAD
on THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2011**

Present: Councillor Dick Walsh (Chair)

Councillor Rory Colville	Councillor Neil Mackay
Councillor Robin Currie	Councillor Bruce Marshall
Councillor Vivien Dance	Councillor Ellen Morton
Councillor Alison Hay	Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Duncan MacIntyre	Councillor Len Scoullar
Councillor Robert Macintyre	

Also Present: Councillor Gordon Chalmers Councillor William Petrie
Councillor George Freeman Councillor Al Reay
Councillor James McQueen Councillor John Semple

Attending: Sally Loudon, Chief Executive
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director – Customer Services
Cleland Sneddon, Executive Director – Community Services
Sandy McTaggart, Executive Director – Development and
Infrastructure Services
Bruce West, Head of Strategic Finance
Dougie Dunlop, Head of Children and Families
Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Amenity Services
Angus Gilmour, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services
Robert Pollock, Head of Economic Development
Fergus Murray, Development Policy Manager
Ishabel Bremner, Economic Development Manager
David Logan, QIO Special Projects
Superintendent Iain Murray, Strathclyde Police
Dr Jamie Houston, Consultant Paediatrician

The Chair welcomed Dr Jamie Houston and Superintendent Iain Murray to the meeting and advised that they were attending for item 9 of the agenda (Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children). The Chair intimated and the Executive agreed that item 9 of the agenda be taken before the Minutes to allow them to leave the meeting after consideration of this item.

The Committee extended their congratulations to Officers on the Council's submission to the Scottish Government in respect of the Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Scheme, for a £20M proposal to extend Oban's North Pier and construct a development road to the north of the town, which has received Ministerial approval to proceed to Full Business Case stage.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Donald McIntosh, Councillor Donald MacMillan, Maureen Arthur, David McEwan, William Dalby and Alison Palmer.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

(a) EXECUTIVE - 29 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Minutes of the Executive of 29 September 2011 were approved as a correct record.

(b) EXECUTIVE - 6 OCTOBER 2011

The Minutes of the Executive of 6 October 2011 were approved as a correct record.

4. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader of the Council submitted a report which highlighted issues he had recently been involved with including:-

A visit to Tiree to meet with the House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee on 21 and 22 September 2011; the official opening of the Women's Aid Refuge in Dunoon on 27 September 2011; a meeting with Aileen Campbell MSP, Minister for Local Government and Planning in Dunoon on 27 September 2011; a meeting with Peter Peacock, Policy Director for Community Land Scotland on 28 September 2011; his attendance at the Performance Management Seminar on 29 September 2011; his attendance at the COSLA Leaders' meeting on 30 September 2011; his attendance at the Gaelic Awareness Seminar on 7 October 2011; and a meeting with Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning on 10 October 2011.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report for the period 21 September to 21 October 2011.

(Reference: Report by Leader of the Council for the period 21 September to 21 October 2011, submitted)

5. EUROPEAN ISSUES

The Spokesperson for European Issues submitted a report which provided an overview of the 39th General Assembly of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and related meetings of the Geographic Commission which took place in Aarhus, Denmark on 28 – 30 September 2011.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by Spokesperson for European Issues, submitted)

6. TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Spokesperson for Transport and Infrastructure submitted a report which provided updates on a number of issues including:-

Progress with the reconstruction of Port Ellen pier; the Scottish Ferries Review; the commencement of the tender process for Northern Ferries; the extension of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET); the Air Discount Scheme (ADS) which, within Argyll and Bute, affect services to Islay; the impact of the upgrade to the Campbeltown – Glasgow 926 bus service; a strategy study of the A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan; HITRANS response to the DRT/BSOG consultation; a review of activities in 2009/2011 in START European Project; the Inverness – Aberdeen Rail Project; the UK Transport Futures Group; the options for building a High Speed Rail Link between London and Birmingham; Airport slots at Heathrow; the Glasgow – Edinburgh Rail Project; A83 spend by Argyll and Bute Council; SUSTRANS and LEADER funding; the Highland Railcard Scheme; and he also advised that Cal Mac had been named Best Ferry Company for the second year in a row in the Guardian and Observer Travel Awards 2011.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report;
2. Acknowledged and recognised the proactive working by Councillor Duncan MacIntyre as Spokesperson for Transportation and Infrastructure; and
3. Commended the good work by Officers in carrying out the £7M programme of roads expenditure for the current year.

(Reference: Report by Spokesperson for Transport and Infrastructure dated 25 October 2011, submitted)

7. RURAL AND ISLAND AFFAIRS, HOUSING AND GAELIC

The Spokesperson for Rural and Island Affairs, Housing and Gaelic submitted a report which highlighted issues which he had recently been involved with including:-

Visits made to the four main Housing Associations operating in Argyll and Bute; Housing Investment funding recently announced by the Scottish Government; the Council's public consultation on the draft Local Housing Strategy 2011 – 2016; and the issue of consultation notice letters to local tenants and residents relating to pressured area designation which will suspend the Right to Buy for new tenancies or ones that started on or after 30 September 2002.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by Spokesperson for Rural and Island Affairs, Housing and Gaelic dated November 2011, submitted)

8. UPDATE ON EXAMINATION RESULTS

The Executive, at its meeting on 29 September 2011 considered a report advising on initial SQA examinations results for 2011 in respect of schools across Argyll and Bute. A follow up report advising of comparative data for national and 'family' comparisons was before the Executive for consideration.

Decision

Agreed to note the updated results for 2011 and to continue to support the work of schools in securing continuous improvement.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Community Services dated 4 November 2011, submitted)

9. JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN

A report providing an overview of the outcome of the 2011 inspection of child protection services in Argyll and Bute and highlighting the actions that have been taken by the public sector partners in response to the report findings was considered.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report and the actions in place to address further service developments; and
2. Noted that a further progress report would be provided to the Executive within a six month period.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Community Services and Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children and Young People in the Argyll and Bute Council Area report dated 6 October 2011, submitted)

10. TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

A report providing Members with an update on progress with the Transformation Programme was considered.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Finance dated 26 October 2011, submitted)

11. UPDATED BUDGET FORECAST FOR 2012-13 TO 2014-15

A report summarising the current overall budget position for 2012-2013 through to 2014-15 and providing an estimate of the likely funding gap was considered.

Decision

Noted the updated draft of the revenue budget 2012-2013 to 2014-2015.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Finance dated 24 October 2011, submitted)

12. ECONOMY POLICY AND PERFORMANCE GROUP - UPDATE

A report advising of the Economy Policy and Performance Group's progress with its work programme was considered.

Decision

Noted the current work programme for the Economy Policy and Performance Group and that a future report on progress will be brought to the Executive in six months time.

(Reference: Report by Chair of Economy Policy and Performance Group dated 5 September 2011, submitted)

13. APPOINTMENT OF RECRUITMENT PANEL: POST OF HEAD OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A report inviting the Executive to appoint a Panel to establish an Appointments Panel to appoint to the post of Head of Children and Families within Community Services was considered.

Decision

Agreed to establish an Appointments Panel and appoint Councillors Walsh, Morton, Mulvaney, Nisbet and D MacIntyre plus 2 Members appointed by the Opposition to approve the short list, interview the short listed candidates and make an appointment to the post of Head of Children and Families; with Councillor Dance being appointed as a substitute member in her capacity as Depute Spokesperson for Education.

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

14. ESTABLISHMENT OF A PANEL OF PERSONS FROM WHOM CURATORS AD LITEM, AND REPORTING OFFICERS MAY BE APPOINTED

A report recommending the Executive establish a panel of persons from whom curators ad litem and reporting officers may be appointed and setting out the process followed to set terms for the panel and to receive nominations for appointment to the panel was considered.

Decision

The Executive agreed to:-

1. Establish a panel of persons from whom curators ad litem and reporting officers may be appointed;
2. Appoint those included on the draft list of approved curators ad litem and reporting officers to the panel; and

3. Appoint persons to the panel for a period of three years.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 4 October 2011, submitted)

15. WAVERLEY PADDLE STEAMER - REQUEST FOR FUNDING

A report advising of a request received from Waverley Excursions Ltd for additional funding to ensure the financial viability of the vessel was considered.

Decision

The Executive –

1. Noted that the Council provides significant support in kind to the Waverley to the value of some £10,000;
2. Noted that the Waverley has served the communities of Argyll and Bute for almost 40 years providing an amenity for local communities, a popular tourist attraction for visitors and an economic benefit for Argyll and Bute in the thousands of passengers brought to Dunoon, Rothesay, Tighnabruich, Oban, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Helensburgh, Kilcreggan, Blairmore and Tiree;
3. Agreed to approve one off funding of £15,000 to support the Waverley and ensure the financial viability of this valued community attraction;
4. Noted that this funding of £15,000 will be found from uncommitted monies within the Council's General Fund; and
5. Requested that the funding position of the operators be monitored by the Head of Community and Culture in consultation with the Spokesperson for Enterprise, Energy, Culture and Tourism and reported to the Executive on a regular basis.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 12 October 2011, submitted)

16. WINTER SERVICE POLICY 2011 - 2012

Consideration was given to the Winter Services Policy document for season 2011 – 2012 which had previously been considered by the Area Committees.

Decision

Approved the policy to allow Operational Plans to be finalised towards the mobilisation of resources.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 12 September 2011; Winter Services Policy 2011/12; Extract from Minutes of Bute and Cowal Area Committee of 4 October 2011; Extract from Minutes of Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee of 5 October 2011; Extract from Minutes of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee of 13

October 2011; and Extract from Minutes of Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee of 18 October 2011, submitted)

17. HELENSBURGH PIERHEAD MASTERPLAN

The Master Plan for Helensburgh Pierhead was approved by the Executive at their meeting on 15 October 2009. Since then a number of issues have emerged which affect the weight which can be attached to it and a report regarding proposals for a revised Helensburgh Pierhead Master Plan was before the Executive for consideration.

Decision

Agreed to authorise the Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services to instruct consultants to prepare a development/design brief and revised Master Plan to take forward the process to procure the proposed new Leisure Facility and the development and marketing of the Pierhead and Hermitage sites.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 3 November 2011, submitted)

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

18. SCOPING PAPER FOR THE DELIVERY OF BUSINESS GATEWAY IN HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND POST SEPTEMBER 2012

Consideration was given to a proposal for the future delivery of Business Gateway in the Helensburgh and Lomond area post 2012.

Decision

Agreed to the recommendations detailed in the report.

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

19. STRATEGIC OPTIONS APPRAISAL - HELENSBURGH PIERHEAD & FORMER HERMITAGE ACADEMY SITE

Consideration was given to a strategic options appraisal for Helensburgh Pierhead and the former Hermitage Academy Site.

Decision

Agreed the recommendations detailed in the report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 3 November 2011, submitted)

20. CASTLE TOWARD - SUMMARY OF OFFERS

A report advising the Executive of the outline terms of the various offers received in respect of Castle Toward and the appraisal of these offers was considered.

Decision

Agreed the recommendations detailed in the report.

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

21. PUBLIC TOILETS, MAIN STREET, TOBERMORY

Consideration was given to a recommendation from the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee regarding the disposal of the former public toilets at Main Street, Tobermory, Mull along with a supplementary report advising of the implications of accepting a nominal offer to purchase this building.

Consideration was also given to a petition containing 488 signatures and 3 pieces of email correspondence seeking authority not to proceed with the recommendation by the Area Committee.

Decision

1. Noted the terms of the recommendation by Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee;
2. Noted the representations received in relation to the possible disposal of the property; and
3. Agreed to instruct the Executive Director – Customer Services to pursue the disposal of the property to the offerer of the highest price, and, in the event of it not being possible to conclude a bargain with said offerer, to pursue a disposal to the next highest offerer, without reference back to Members.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 20 September 2011, Extract from Minutes of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee of 12 October 2011; and Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 26 October 2011, submitted)