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MINUTE
of
PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 15th April 2025.

Present:

Councillor Betty Cunningham (Chair)	Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Annette Ireland	Councillor Jim McLean (Vice Chair)
Councillor Chris Lunday (*)	Councillor Andrew Morrison

Councillor Cunningham in the Chair

Attending:

Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place; Michelle McGuckin, Chief Planner and Building Standards Manager; Nicola McEleny, Solicitor; Derek Scott, Principal Planner (Development Management); and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

(*) denotes remote attendance

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1175. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

1176. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Environment on an application for planning permission requiring consideration by the Committee.

It was agreed that the applications be determined as indicated at Appendix 1 accompanying this Minute, particular reference being made to the following:-

- (i) 2025/0043/TP – Construction and operation of a 40MW battery energy storage facility, together with associated infrastructure, substation, security fencing, CCTV, security lighting and landscaping at land at the east side of Glasgow Road, Eaglesham, G76 0DN.

The Principal Planner was heard further on the report, in the course of which he summarised the 315 representations that had been received.

He provided further information on the relevant planning policies and assessments and stated that the proposal was considered to comply with the terms of the development plan, including NPF4 and LDP2.

Members expressed concerns around the location of the site, as well as the lack of clarity on connection to a water source, the nature of planting taking place at the site and the access of construction vehicles to the site via Eaglesham village, additional conditions were suggested to mitigate those concerns.

Following discussion of the application, Councillor Ireland, seconded by Provost Montague, moved that the recommendation of the report be approved and planning permission granted, subject to the conditions laid out in the report of handling, as well as additional conditions relating to the matters raised at the meeting.

Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor McLean, moved as an amendment that the application be refused as it was contrary to NPF4 policy 8 and LDP2 policy D3.

On the roll being called, Councillors Cunningham, Ireland and Provost Montague voted for the motion. Councillors Lunday, McLean and Morrison voted for the amendment.

With 3 votes being cast for the motion and 3 for the amendment, Councillor Cunningham exercised her casting vote for the motion, which was declared carried.

The Committee, therefore, agreed to grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in the report of handling and additional conditions as follows:-

“22. Prior to the commencement of any work on site, a construction traffic management plan shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The construction traffic management plan shall detail the routes to be taken by construction traffic travelling to and from the site. Thereafter, the construction traffic shall travel to and from the site in accordance with the approved construction traffic management plan throughout the duration of the construction phase, unless minor and temporary amendments are agreed in advance with the Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interest of public road safety.

23. Further to the specifications shown on the approved landscaping plan (reference PL-001 (Landscape) Rev6), no planting shall take place within 10 metres of any battery energy storage container. Prior to the commencement of any work on site, a written scheme detailing the maintenance of the unplanted area within the compound, including the removal of any self-seeded vegetation within that area, shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Thereafter, the maintenance of the unplanted area shall be carried out in accordance with the approved maintenance scheme.

Reason: In the interest of public safety.

24. Prior to the commencement of any work on site, written confirmation demonstrating the agreement of Scottish Water, or their successors, to supply the site with water shall be submitted for noting and recording by the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure a steady supply of water to the site.

APPENDIX

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
AS AMENDED BY THE PLANNING ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Draft index of applications under the above acts to be considered by Planning Applications Committee
on 15th April 2025.

Reference No: 2024/0478/TP

Ward: 5

Applicant:

GPC 1137 Ltd
3rd Floor
1 Ashley Road
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA14 2DT

Agent:

Paul Booth
1 Bar Lane
York
YO1 6JU

Site: Land At The East Side Of Glasgow Road, Eaglesham, G76 0DN

Description: Construction and operation of a 40 MW battery energy storage facility, together with associated infrastructure, substation, security fencing, CCTV, security lighting and landscaping.

Please click [here](#) for further information on this application

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 23 April 2025.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Anderson
Councillor Tony Buchanan
Deputy Provost Kate Campbell
Councillor Betty Cunningham*
Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Paul Edlin*
Councillor Annette Ireland

Councillor Chris Lunday*
Councillor Jim McLean*
Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Andrew Morrison
Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)
Councillor Katie Pragnell
Councillor Gordon Wallace

Provost Montague in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Caitriona McAuley, Director of Environment; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Julie Murray, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP); Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer); Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement); Raymond Prior, Head of Children's Services and Justice, Chief Social Work Officer; Siobhan McColgan, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity); Jamie Reid, Head of Communities and Transformation; Mark Rodgers, Head of Environment (Housing and Property); Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place; Barry Tudhope, Democratic Services Manager; Linda Hutchison, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

(*) indicates remote attendance.

Apologies:

Councillors Caroline Bamforth, David Macdonald and Colm Merrick.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1177. Provost Montague referred to the following issues:-

(a) The Late Pope Francis

Provost Montague referred to the recent sad death of the late Pope Francis, who had dedicated his life to the Catholic faith, serving with humility and dedication during his 12 years as the pontiff. She highlighted that he had spent his final days calling for peace, and led with empathy, courage and kindness, these being a legacy to be proud of.

(b) **Retirement of Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership**

Referring to the forthcoming retirement of the Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), Provost Montague thanked her for her contribution to the Council's work over many years, and confirmed that there would be a further opportunity for Elected Members to make their own remarks to her following the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1178. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1179. The Council considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 26 February 2025.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

1180. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted:-

- (a) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 20 February 2025;
- (b) Cabinet – 6 March 2025;
- (c) Licensing Committee – 11 March 2025;
- (d) Cabinet – 27 March 2025;
- (e) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 27 March 2025;
- (f) Local Review Body – 2 April 2025;
- (g) Education Committee – 3 April 2025; and
- (h) Appeals Committee – 10 April 2025.

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27 MARCH 2025 – INTERIM TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2024/25 – QUARTER 4

1181. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of 27 March 2025 (Page 1120, Item 1160 refers), when it had been agreed to recommend to the Council that proposed increases in the Prudential Indicators be approved arising from the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standard 16 (IFRS 16), and that organisations specified for the investment of surplus funds also be approved, the Council considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) reporting on Treasury Management activities for the quarter ending 30 April 2025.

Councillor Morrison clarified that no further borrowing had been taken during the quarter due to current high interest rates but, that as balances depleted, this position would be unsustainable. Having confirmed that treasury management performance was satisfactory relative to performance indicators measuring risk, prudence and debt, he referred to IFRS 16 and related issues, and the investment of surplus funds.

The Council agreed to approve the:-

- (a) proposed increases in the Prudential Indicators as a result of the introduction of the new financial reporting standard, IFRS16; and

- (b) organisations for the investment of surplus funds, in accordance with Appendix 8 to the report.

CABINET – 6 MARCH 2025 – GENEREAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

1182. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 6 March 2025 (Page 1105, Item 1138 refers), when it had been agreed to recommend that the Council note and approve movements within the General Fund Capital Programme, and that a shortfall of £0.362m and income and expenditure be managed and reported on a regular basis, the Council considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) monitoring income and expenditure as at 31 December 2024 against the approved Programme, and recommending adjustments where possible.

In response to Councillor Ireland, the Director of Education, supported by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer), clarified that following a joint assessment with the Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust, priority was being given to expanding the school meals service at Giffnock Primary School where the greatest challenges were faced, but that all of the capital funds secured would be used as intended, albeit with some expenditure being rephased. It was confirmed that parents were being contacted to help maximise take up of entitlement to free school meals, and that should additional funds become available, work on extending school meal facilities at other schools could be done.

The Council:-

- (a) approved and noted the movements within the 2024/25 Programme; and
- (b) noted the shortfall of £0.362m and that income and expenditure on the Programme would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

CABINET – 6 MARCH 2025 – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

1183. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 6 March 2025 (Page 1105, Item 1139 refers), when it had been agreed to recommend that the Council note and approve movements within the Housing Capital Programme, and note that a shortfall of £0.119m and income and expenditure would be managed and reported on a regular basis, the Council considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) and Director of Environment monitoring income and expenditure as at 31 December 2024 against the approved Programme, and recommending adjustments where required.

In response to Councillor Morrison who sought an update on progress regarding net zero standards for social housing given that the age of some boilers in these properties was detrimental to heating bills, the Head of Environment (Housing and Property) reported that guidance on this was still awaited, on receipt of which investment plans would be updated. Councillor Morrison expressed disappointment that the guidance had not yet been received.

Councillor Ireland sought clarification on both internal element renewals and aids and adaptations, work on both of which had been delayed due to increased contractor costs and contractor changes. The Head of Environment (Housing and Property) confirmed that work on these was being rephased, and that a change of contractor had been necessary, regarding which there would be adherence to the approved procurement process.

The Council agreed to note:-

- (a) and approve the movements within the 2024/25 Programme; and
- (b) the shortfall of £0.119m and that income and expenditure on the Programme would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

STATEMENTS BY CONVENERS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The following statements were made:-

(a) Councillor Anderson – Convener for Education, Culture and Leisure

Councillor Anderson commented that investment of £250k in gym and fitness equipment in leisure centres had helped the Culture and Leisure Trust sustain high growth in gym membership, which had almost doubled since 2015 and stood at an all-time high of 4,340 members.

Referring to the refurbishment of Neilston Library, he reported that the facility had reopened in early February to acclaim from both staff and library users, a much more welcoming and modern space having been created that the community could be proud of.

Councillor Anderson also referred to work completed on changing rooms and the Sauna and Health Suite in Barrhead Foundry. He highlighted that, despite the unavailability of the pool for lessons during the completion of the work, the Learn to Swim Programme had continued to grow to a record 3,326 participants, representing a 19% increase compared to the previous year.

Whilst reporting on the Annual East Renfrewshire Dance Championships in March, Councillor Anderson commented that he had had the pleasure of being part of the audience at Eastwood High School. He highlighted that dancers from Isobel Mair School, 16 primary schools and 7 secondary schools had performed over two nights, commending and congratulating the competitors for their performances, and the teachers and parents who helped choreograph the dances. Highlights had included the Isobel Mair Wheels in Motion team.

Finally, Councillor Anderson reported that March had witnessed the launch of the small-sided football season in East Renfrewshire, delivered by the Trust in partnership with East Renfrewshire Soccer Development Association. Over 3,000 players, from 285 teams, had played 1,500 fixtures across 10 venues in the area, illustrating the continued growth of the small-sided game locally.

(b) Councillor Pragnell – Convener for Social Work and Health

Councillor Pragnell reported that she and Councillor O'Donnell had written to the First Minister, asking if the Scottish Government planned to adhere to its commitment to abolish all non-residential social care charges by the end of the parliamentary term. Having confirmed that a copy of the letter and response had been circulated to all Elected Members, she commented that the response from the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport had been deeply disappointing, confirming that, at present, there was little hope that the charges would be abolished. She reported that the Minister had attended only one meeting focused on ending the charges in the past two and a half years, and

that the number of wider Scottish Government meetings on non-residential social care charging had drastically reduced. She considered this news to be a blow, both for those who campaigned for abolishment of the charges and relied on these services.

Councillor Pragnell reported that the 2025/26 budget had been approved at the most recent Integration Joint Board (IJB) meeting in March, the Board having sought assurance that statutory duties could be met and that the budget was achievable. The IJB remained concerned about prescribing pressures, recognised this was a national issue, and had taken assurance from development work the NHS Board was progressing on a whole systems approach to prescribing. The latest budget monitoring showed a projected underspend of £288,000, which was a significant improvement from the overspend previously reported. This was due mainly to an additional £1m from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to help address prescribing pressures.

The IJB had received an update on The Promise following the publication of the 5th Anniversary Report which was to be considered by the Council later in the meeting. The IJB had welcomed that The Promise was at the heart of the Council's Children's Services Plans, and commended Children's Services on their positive inspection results on fostering, adoption and adult placement services.

The IJB had received assurance on the closure of Greenlaw Medical Practice, which would continue to operate until every patient had been reallocated on a phased basis which was expected to be concluded by the end of June. An update had also been received on preparedness and current compliance levels with the Health and Care Staffing Scotland Act, regarding which some services remained to achieve substantial assurance. Further guidance was expected from the Care Inspectorate on registered social care services to be developed, which would be the subject of a future IJB seminar.

Councillor Pragnell reported that the IJB had thanked the Chief Officer, HSCP for her leadership, knowledge and experience, following which she thanked her for her service to East Renfrewshire residents over the past 24 years, wishing her a long, happy and well deserved retirement.

The Council noted the statements.

PROVOST ENGAGEMENTS

1184. The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships, providing details of civic engagements attended and civic duties performed by Provost Montague since the meeting on 26 February 2025.

The Council noted the report.

EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING REPORT

1185. The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships seeking approval of the East Renfrewshire Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Report.

It was explained that the Council continued to strive towards eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, and fostering good relations between those from different protected characteristic groups. Having highlighted that East Renfrewshire had one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse communities in Scotland, the report itemised various requirements the Council had to adhere to under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

Structured in line with statutory requirements and mirroring Scottish Government reporting under six principles, the Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Report 2025 appended to the report demonstrated how the Council was meeting its duties under the Act. It detailed actions taken to ensure equalities and human rights were embedded throughout the organisation; provided an update on progress made towards achieving 2021 Equality Outcomes over the past 2 years; and focussed on how employees were supported. The 2025–2029 Equalities Outcomes Report, a copy of which was also appended to the report, set out new outcomes for the next four years.

The report concluded that it was aimed to ensure everyone was treated fairly, had equality of opportunity, and was empowered to contribute to their community, referring to the value of the diverse local population, and opportunities to learn from the experiences, perspectives and skills different individuals and communities brought to the area.

In response to Councillor Pragnell, the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships confirmed that the Corporate Management Team had recently approved a new policy on neonatal care which was now in place, information on which would be relayed to employees.

In response to Councillor Ireland, the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships clarified that membership of the Communities Equality Forum was open to groups and individuals with a connection to East Renfrewshire interested in its work, residency within the area not being a requirement under its Terms of Reference. She undertook to provide some examples of the types of people and groups represented on the Forum.

Having highlighted reference in the report to LGBT plus young people being at higher risk of mental health problems and to the LGBT plus community being at higher risk of isolation and loneliness, Councillor Ireland welcomed the report and progress made, or planned, on issues, thanking all officers involved.

In response to Councillor Ireland who sought clarification on when engagement data on Time for Inclusive Education (TIE) would be available, the Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity) clarified that schools engaged via the TIE website and access to on-line training. Although it was not possible to track access to these, engagement was discussed at the Equalities Forum where various resources were shared.

In response to Councillor Morrison who asked how a good sample size could be achieved to determine the extent to which young people felt connected to their communities, the Head of Communities and Transformation confirmed that this issue was continuing to be considered as part of the work on *A Place to Grow*, with there being a range of active engagement mechanisms across schools and communities. Although no data was available thus far, work on this was ongoing linked to *A Place to Grow*, with a view to reporting on this in future years.

Councillor Edlin referred to the importance of Councillors having the opportunity to engage in the Communities Equality Forum.

On the issue of equality, Councillor Wallace commented that support for underrepresented or disadvantage groups could only exist where that support did not discriminate against others, seeking clarification on monitoring done within the Council to minimise the risk of someone being treated more favourably solely because they had a protected characteristic. The Director

of Business Operations and Partnerships did not hold any particular concerns regarding this, commenting on various issues including recruitment processes, improved workforce diversity and related issues, and the Equalities Staff Forum attended by employees from across the Council who were concerned with fairness generally. In response to a request from Councillor Wallace to put appropriate monitoring in place to ensure the Council was not at risk of acting unlawfully in terms of positive discrimination, the Chief Executive commented that he was not aware of any instances of such discrimination, but was happy to ensure that appropriate safeguards and mechanisms continued to be in place to allow any such allegations to be reported, which was encouraged, and dealt with appropriately, this being one mechanism through which monitoring was undertaken. He assured Elected Members that any such complaint, including through whistleblowing, would be considered appropriately.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) to acknowledge the duties of the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012;
- (b) to approve the content of the Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Report prior to publication (Annex 1);
- (c) to approve the new Equality Outcomes for 2025-2029 (Annex 2); and
- (d) that examples of the membership of the Communities Equality Forum be circulated to all Elected Member for information.

A PLACE TO GROW UPDATE AND YEAR 1 DELIVERY PLAN

1186. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 11 September 2024 (Page 931, Item 931 refers), when the Council had approved the strategic vision *A Place to Grow*, the Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships seeking approval of the first-year delivery plan (2025/26) for *A Place to Grow*, the Council's and Community Planning Partnership's vision for East Renfrewshire by 2040, and setting out how this would be progressed further over the coming months.

Having commented on the three pillars on which the vision was built, the report commented on work progressed, since the Plan had been approved, to share with and promote *A Place to Grow* with stakeholders, which had been well-received, and next steps which included a Community Conference in Barrhead on 26 April 2025.

The report referred to the rationalisation of Plans and streamlining of reporting, and the replacement of the previous Outcome Delivery Plan (ODP) with a new Organisational Health Check about the kind of organisation the Council needed to be to deliver *A Place to Grow* and track progress. In terms of Governance, the new Delivery Plan would shape the type of organisational culture, service objectives, employee skills and capabilities and activities needed to deliver successfully *A Place to Grow*. This linked strongly to the new People Strategy, the Council's three values (ambition, kindness and trust) and capabilities (prevention, empowering communities and digital change), and leadership and digital transformation plans, helping to ensure the Council meets its statutory Best Value requirements.

Whilst commenting in detail on the report, the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships referred to the three pillars, the public launch of *A Place to Grow* in December 2024, the forthcoming community conference aimed at continuing the conversation on how it could be brought to life, and how local people and organisations could be taken on that journey

and play their part. Whilst an ambitious vision had been set out, collective thoughts and plans for delivering it would iterate, shape and develop over time in partnership with local people.

She clarified that the report considered the first-year Delivery Plan for *A Place to Grow*, attempted to streamline the planning and reporting framework, and set the foundation for the detailed annual reports the Council would consider each summer. She explained how the Delivery Plan made a commitment to partnership-level actions, outlined a new measurement framework, covered statutory requirements of the Community Empowerment Act, and enabled the Council to assess its part in delivering *A Place to Grow*. It was emphasised that strong cross-party partnership and community support was essential to developing the ambitions and priorities of the vision, it being crucial that delivery of *A Place to Grow* was not solely seen as a Council activity as continued engagement, commitment and resources of all stakeholders were required to fully realise its vision.

The Director of Business Operations and Partnerships also referred to a range of related issues, including on-going work on partnership, leadership and governance structures; what the Delivery Plan replaced; and attempts being made to gather information once and use it for multiple purposes whilst joining-up reporting to minimise information duplication. A final report on the ODP would be submitted to the Council in June, reviewing performance in 2024/25, with all future reporting following the framework of *A Place to Grow*.

In response to Councillor Morrison who referred to comparative data available in relation to the ODP, the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships confirmed that comparative data would be provided where possible.

Having welcomed the engagement that had taken place to reach this stage and thanked all those involved in taking these first steps, Councillor O'Donnell commented that he was looking forward to the forthcoming community conference, to which all Elected Members had been invited, and hearing the views of all those attending. Councillor Buchanan echoed those comments, during which he highlighted and welcomed the work done thus far from a firm foundation, referring to the importance of the Community Planning Partnership, and the benefits of rationalising data.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) to note the progress on sharing *A Place to Grow* with stakeholders and developing a Delivery Plan in line with its vision and ambition;
- (b) to approve the year-one delivery plan and measurement framework attached as Annexes 1 and 2 respectively, which replaced the previous Outcome Delivery Plan and introduced a new Organisational Healthcheck section, noting that these would continue to evolve over the coming year and beyond; and
- (c) to note that work was ongoing to develop Community Planning Partnership leadership and governance structures to oversee delivery of the Plan.

SCHEME FOR MEMBERS' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES 2025/26

1187. The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships on the updated Scheme for Members' Remuneration and Expenses for 2025/26 in accordance with the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2025. A copy of the Scheme was appended to the report.

Having referred to recommendations made to the Scottish Government in February 2024 by the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC) following its independent review of Councillor Remuneration, the majority of which had been accepted and implemented, the report referred to changes that required to be made by the Council in light of the amendments to the Regulations.

Councillor Ireland commented on the allocation and recipients of special responsibility payments when the Council's Administration was established in 2022 and increases in Remuneration arising from the implementation of the new Regulations, following which Councillor Wallace and Councillor Buchanan expressed their views on the discussions that had taken place at the time. Councillor O'Donnell stressed that the new levels set recognised new and changing roles of Elected Members, encouraged individuals to stand for Elected Office, and overcame related barriers to that, highlighting that it was not in the Council's gift to apply an alternative scheme.

The Council agreed to note that the Scheme for Members' Remuneration and Expenses had been updated for 2025/26 in terms of Councillor remuneration.

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

1188. The Council considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) regarding the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act (RIPSA) 2000, referring to surveillance activity undertaken by the Council during 2024-25, and seeking approval to amend the Council's Procedure on Covert Surveillance to reflect changes to those designated as approved authorising officers, a copy of which was appended to the report.

The report commented on the purpose of RIPSA, oversight of the regulatory framework by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office, changes made to the Council's procedure over time, and a general reduction in surveillance activity undertaken by the Council in favour of a more overt approach. Reference was made to training provided to applicant and authorising officers.

The Council agreed to:-

- (a) note the use of directed surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources during the period of 2024/25; and
- (b) approve the revised Procedure on Covert Surveillance in accordance with Appendix 1 to the report.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROMISE 5TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRESS REPORT

1189. The Council considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer highlighting the work undertaken by East Renfrewshire Council, the Health and Social Care Partnership and the wider Children's Planning Partnership, the Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership, in promoting The Promise.

The report highlighted progress with local implementation from 2020 to 2025, since the conclusions of the Independent Care Review has been published and The Promise had been made and launched at a national level. It had acknowledged that the care system in Scotland wasn't working and proposed transformational change over a ten year period in the interests of care experienced children and young people.

Having referred to a national report published in February 2025 by The Promise Oversight Board and related Call to Action considered by the local multi-agency Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership, it was confirmed that, where necessary, steps would be taken to make further progress locally and ensure areas of improvement were included in East Renfrewshire's *A Place to Grow* strategic vision and the Children's Services Plan.

Determination existed to deliver The Promise in East Renfrewshire by 2030, it having been acknowledged, in agreement with the national Promise Oversight Board, that there was not a moment left to waste, and that there was a need for all agencies to play their part in making this happen. The five year report illustrated the strength of commitment locally to do this. It was concluded that, ultimately, progress would be judged by children, young people and their families and carers as to how well the change needed had taken place,

Having referred to aims of The Promise and welcomed the good work done and progress made locally and nationally, Councillor Ireland referred to an issue raised by a local resident, regarding a Motion brought before the Scottish Parliament by an MSP condemning reports of the overuse of restraint and forced injections at Skye House Psychiatric House and seeking mandatory reporting in any associated legislative framework. More specifically, she asked if there was anything the Council could do to support the Motion, given The Promise and importance of this. The Chief Executive suggested that this was a matter for Glasgow City Council and HSCP to take forward, rather than the Council getting directly involved.

He added that, despite a lot of strong work done locally, complacency needed to be avoided, with a focus placed on local children and making further progress. Councillor Buchanan thanked the Chief Social Work Officer for the report and progress made, commending the active local approach taken to addressing the needs of looked after children. He welcomed that the local oversight Board would have a role overseeing further progress locally.

The Council agreed to note the:-

- (a) publication of the national Promise Oversight Board 5th Anniversary Report (2025); and
- (b) 5th Anniversary progress update on implementation of The Promise in East Renfrewshire as referred to at Appendix 1 to the report.

OUTLINE OF PRESSURES FACING HOMELESSNESS

1190. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 11 September 2024 (Page 933, Item 942 refers), when the Council had declared a local housing emergency and agreed that an update of levels of homelessness within East Renfrewshire and measures being put in place to address the emergency be presented to the Council in six months' time, the Council considered a report by the Director of Environment on these issues.

The report reiterated the position in September at which time it had been highlighted that the biggest challenge facing the Council as a result of the emergency was the provision of suitable temporary and permanent accommodation. Having presented a range of statistical information on levels of homelessness and related issues, the report itemised a range of actions and ongoing work led by the housing team over the past 6 months, and summarised the position on the provision on new permanent housing and associated matters. The report stressed the need for a multi-agency approach, referred to the multi-agency partnership established by the Housing Service which was helping to mitigate the emergency in various ways examples of

which were provided, and clarified that the Council worked closely with all social housing providers, such as to ensure all social housing stock was used for those in most need.

It was concluded that the Council continued to face a local housing emergency and that, whilst there had been a small reduction in homelessness and the use of temporary accommodation, the emergency had not yet been addressed. The sustained increase in homelessness since 2019 continued, which the local housing market was not equipped to deal with, with action continuing to be taken to mitigate the position on this. Further updates could be provided at regular intervals.

Councillor Morrison considered the increase in the numbers in temporary accommodation in East Renfrewshire relative to other local authorities concerning, commenting on the removal by the Scottish Government of the requirement to have a local connection to an area and the Council's proximity to Glasgow City. In response to a query from him on comments made by a politician about the asylum system placing an undue burden on the housing crisis in Glasgow, the Head of Environment (Housing and Property) clarified that responsibility for housing, temporarily or permanently, those classified as asylum seekers lay with the Home Office, rather than local authorities, until their asylum status was determined. Those granted leave to remain were then able to access homelessness pathways. Further in response to Councillor Morrison who commented on partnership working, the Head of Environment (Housing and Property) stated that he would be happy to have strategic discussions with Glasgow City Council on the homelessness crisis if they raised this, but that the problem was a challenging national one and the subject of regular conversations such as at COSLA.

Councillor Devlin, supported by Councillor O'Donnell, welcomed actions being taken to address the ongoing challenges associated with homelessness and, in particular, the reduction in the number entering bed and breakfast accommodation. He also referred to a contract being put in place with Barrhead Housing Association which would be helpful and, more generally, thanked the officers involved in work on addressing homelessness issues.

The Council agreed to note the update provided.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 3 (DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME AND PARTICIPATION STATEMENT 2025)

1191. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 11 September 2024 (Page 933, Item 943 refers), when the Council had agreed to submit the Evidence Report for the next Local Development Plan (LDP3) to Scottish Ministers, the Council considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval to publish and submit the LDP3 Proposed Development Plan Scheme (DPS) and Participation Statement 2025 to Scottish Ministers.

It was clarified that the DPS formed an important and statutory part of preparing LDP3, setting a timetable for the preparation of the new Plan, and detailing how communities and other stakeholders could get involved in the process.

Councillor Ireland commented on the value of engagement in the community and related community events and activities for consultation at which many were keen to share views, seeking clarification on how many there would be, when they would take place, and if this would include schools to reach as many people as possible and ingather a broad range of views. The Head of Place confirmed there would be various stages of engagement, including some in local schools, which would continue in the proposed plan stage. She confirmed that there would be a significant number of events allowing people to give feedback before the LDP was finalised.

1154

The Council agreed to:-

- (a) approve the Proposed Development Plan Scheme 2025 for publication and submission to Scottish Ministers; and
- (b) delegate authority to the Director of Environment to approve any minor inconsequential changes to the document, in line with Council policy, prior to its submission to Scottish Ministers.

PROVOST

MINUTE
of
LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 29 April 2025.

Present:

Councillor Kate Campbell
Provost Mary Montague(*)

Councillor David Macdonald(*)

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Rebecca Auld, Solicitor; Paul Birkin, Senior Environmental Health Officer; David Higgins, Civic Licensing Standards Officer; John Burke, Democratic Services Officer and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

Also Attending:

Inspector Brian Eaglesham, Police Scotland; Inspector Allan Ferris, Police Scotland.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Provost Montague, seconded by Councillor Macdonald, moved that Councillor Campbell be appointed as Chair of the Committee, which was agreed unanimously.

Councillor Campbell in the Chair

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Edlin, Morrison and Merrick.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1192. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

CIVIC GOVERNEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 – TAXI FARES REVIEW

1193. The Committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) to consider the next stage in the review of taxi fares.

The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 ("The Act") provided that the licensing authority must fix scales for the fares and other charges made in connection with the hire of a taxi or

with the arrangements for its hire and to thereafter review such scales periodically, i.e. every 18 months.

The report set out the consultation that had taken place with members of the Taxi trade and those were listed in the appendices to the report.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that:-

- (a) the charges for the hire of taxis in East Renfrewshire, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a taxi, or with the arrangements for its hire, remain unchanged;
- (b) those charges be reviewed by the Committee in 12 months; and
- (c) the Chief Officer (Legal & Procurement) be authorised to publish those proposed scales in a newspaper circulating within East Renfrewshire and prepare any appropriate further reports on any representations received in writing by the Council for the consideration of the Licensing Committee. Or, in the absence of such representations, to fix the scales and give further notice in accordance with the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR GRANT

1194. The Committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) in relation to an application for the grant of a Public Entertainment Licence (agenda item 4 refers).

The applicant was present.

The applicant was heard in respect of the application and in response to questions from members, particularly around aspects of noise from the site and security.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the Committee, agreed to approve the application for the Public Entertainment Licence.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the Committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

1195. The Committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) in relation to a request for immediate suspension of a Private Hire Car Driver Licence and Private Hire Car Operator Licence. (agenda item 5 refers).

The licensee was not present.

Inspector Ferris and Inspector Eaglesham, representing the Chief Constable, were present and requested that the suspensions be granted on the grounds that the licensee was not a fit

and proper person to be the holder of those licences and that the carrying on of the activity to which the licences related was likely to cause a serious threat to public order or public safety.

Following discussion of the matter, the Committee agreed to the request for immediate suspension of both of the Private Hire Car Driver Licence, and Private Hire Car Operator Licence for the remaining duration of both licences.

STREET TRADER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR GRANT

1196. The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal & Procurement) in relation to an application for grant of a Street Trader's Licence (agenda item 6 refers).

The applicant was present.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application and in response to questions.

The Senior Environmental Health Officer, who had made an objection to the application, was also present and spoke to the objection.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the Committee, following discussion, agreed to refuse the application for a Street Trader's Licence.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 8 May 2025.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Morrison (Chair)
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Vice Chair)*
Councillor Annette Ireland

Councillor David Macdonald
Councillor Gordon Wallace

Councillor Morrison in the Chair

Attending:

Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Michelle Blair, Chief Auditor; Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant; Tracy Butler, Lead Planner (Recovery Services), East Renfrewshire HSCP; Alison Ballingall, Senior Revenues Manager; Debbie Hill, Chief Procurement Officer; Barry Tudhope, Democratic Services Manager; and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Rob Jones and Laura Prior, Ernst and Young.

Apologies:

Provost Mary Montague and Councillor Paul Edlin.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1197. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

CHAIR'S REPORT – SELF EVALUATION OF COMMITTEE

1198. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 23 January 2025 (Page 1057, Item 1085 refers), when the position on the Committee's self-evaluation had been noted, Councillor Morrison referred to related discussions since then, and requested that members of the Committee relay any final comments or proposed amendments to a document circulated to them by the Clerk to her by no later than Friday, 16 May, as she has requested, and earlier if possible.

The Committee noted the report.

CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE

1199. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 20 June 2024 (Page 886, Item 881 refers), when the Committee had noted a report on the log maintained regarding the appointment of consultants for the 2023/24 financial year and that further such reports would be submitted after the end of each financial year, the Committee considered a report by the Clerk referring to discussions by the Committee thus far on such expenditure, and providing feedback on consultancy expenditure for the 2024/25 financial year. A copy of the most recent log was appended to the report.

In response to Councillor Ireland, the Chief Procurement Officer confirmed that a contract had been awarded to the ICT system consultant during the 2024/25 financial year, for expenditure that would be incurred in 2025/26.

In response to Councillor Macdonald, she explained how consultants were appointed, through the quick quote procedure or open market competition. Regarding both, the appropriate procurement procedure was followed which included a technical evaluation of bids and other steps to ensure Best Value was achieved. Councillor Macdonald considered this evident, referring to the variety of consultants appointed. In response to Councillor Morrison, the Chief Procurement Officer confirmed that steps were always taken to secure the best price possible for consultancy, which took account of what the market dictated.

The Committee noted the report and that a further report on such expenditure would be submitted after the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

NATIONAL EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – 2023-24 AUDIT OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL: COUNCIL TAX REFUNDS – A SIGNIFICANT FRAUD

1200. The Committee considered a report by the Clerk on the publication in January 2025 of a report by the Accounts Commission entitled *The 2023/24 Audit of Aberdeen City Council, Council Tax Refunds – A Significant Fraud*. Under the Committee's specialisation arrangements, Councillor Macdonald was leading the review of the report. The Director of Business Operations and Partnerships had been asked to provide comments, and a copy of that feedback was appended to the report.

The report referred to the scale of the fraud that had come to light in Aberdeen City Council in September 2023, how the crime had been perpetrated, the consequences for the individual concerned, and failures in controls that had been identified. Having itemised lessons for other local authorities to consider, the report summarised the position on the administration of Council Tax and Council Tax refunds in East Renfrewshire Council, confirming that a full end to end review had been carried out by the Revenue Service and the outcome. No significant issues had been identified, but some areas for improvement were being taken forward.

It was highlighted that the fraud at Aberdeen City Council had been due to a failure in controls, which allowed it to continue over a prolonged period of time. Regarding East Renfrewshire Council, it had been concluded that a robust control environment was in place, but that it could be further enhanced, with appropriate steps being taken to update controls and mitigate the risk of a similar fraud.

In response to Councillor Ireland who sought assurance that the situation that had arisen could not happen in East Renfrewshire, the Senior Revenues Manager referred to the local review undertaken and related Internal Audit findings, stressing that a robust control environment was considered to exist. However, she added that it was difficult to say definitively that nothing could ever happen if someone was determined to commit fraud.

During discussion, in response to Councillor Morrison, she confirmed that the volume of Council Tax refunds reported locally was not abnormally high, explaining that these were attributable to various reasons, such as a person moving house, or a property being rebanded by the Assessor, applications for the latter tending to be from residents seeking a reduction in the Band in which their house was placed.

In response to Councillor Wallace and Councillor Macdonald, the Senior Revenues Manager confirmed that a national revaluation of properties had not been undertaken since the Council Tax system had been introduced, such as to take account of properties being extended. Councillor Macdonald considered this to be one reason why the current system was not fit for purpose, referring, for example, to the plateau when properties reached Band H, within which a very wide range of properties fell.

The Committee, having heard Councillor Morrison welcome the assurances provided, noted the report.

NATIONAL EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – ACOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES

1201. The Committee considered a report by the Clerk on the publication in October 2024 of a report by Audit Scotland entitled *Alcohol and Drug Services*. Under the Committee's specialisation arrangements, Councillor Edlin was leading the review of the report. The Head of Adult Services: Learning Disability and Recovery, had been asked to provide comments and a copy of the feedback was appended to the report.

Having itemised the key messages within the Audit Scotland report, the report confirmed that the East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) delivered integrated alcohol and drug recovery services to support people with harmful alcohol and/or drug use. The HSCP led the local Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) which oversaw work to reduce alcohol and drug harm and deaths, which included provision of alcohol and drug services and wider prevention work in communities, such as through working with young people.

The report provided an update on the local position relative to the Audit Scotland report, concluding that the HSCP was making good progress on achieving the recommendations set out in the Audit Scotland report. It would continue to lead the East Renfrewshire ADP in delivering the Alcohol and Drugs Plan, and participate in national discussions to ensure a sustainable, long term plan for the effective delivery of alcohol and drug services.

Councillor Ireland welcomed the increased funding for preventative measures, and the good work being done locally, whilst highlighting that more remained to be done. In response to a query from her, the Lead Planner (Recovery Services) provided an update on the development of a Lived Experience Network, work on which was underway. She explained that the Advocacy Project, which was leading this work for the HSCP and ADP, had been asked to make recommendations by March 2026 on what had worked well thus far, and how the ADP could sustain work on strategy involving young people, their involvement being considered critical to success.

Councillor Wallace asked if both increased taxation on alcohol and minimum pricing of it had resulted in an increase in young people using drugs instead of alcohol on the basis of cost and, if so, how this impacted on support provided locally and the related budgetary implications of that. The Lead Planner (Recovery Services) was unable to comment in detail on this at the meeting, but referred to work that was continuing to be done by learning and development partners associated with the ADP to engage with young people and gather intelligence on their drug and alcohol use. She undertook to provide some further information on the issue following the meeting.

In response to Councillor Macdonald who referred to a range of reports he had seen which reflected that minimum pricing of alcohol had resulted in a reduction in cases of domestic abuse, the Lead Planner (Recovery Services) confirmed that this was not an issue on which she had specific information.

Referring to recent media reports of alcohol deaths being at a record high level, Councillor Morrison asked if there was evidence of the use of the additional funding for preventative work being effective, or if it could be deployed in a better way. The Lead Planner (Recovery Services) confirmed that data on alcohol and drug deaths had been examined locally and a focus of the ADP's work for some time, reporting that alcohol related deaths were higher than those attributable to drugs. She clarified that, initially, use of the additional funds from the Scottish Government had focussed on preventing drug and alcohol related deaths but, over time and through discussion, flexibility had increased regarding its use, such as for preventative work. She highlighted the flexible and creative approach adopted by the ADP on the use of the funding to respond to local trends, citing examples of how it had been used. The Lead Planner (Recovery Services) confirmed that initiatives were appraised and best practice was shared, such as amongst the other HSCPs in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area, through the joint commissioning of work to develop a sound evidence base, and participation in the National Drug Partnership Coordinator Network. She confirmed that feedback on the evaluation of the pilot safe drug consumption facility in Glasgow was awaited with interest, the need for such a facility in East Renfrewshire being considered to be low.

In response to Councillor Macdonald and Councillor Wallace, the Lead Planner (Recovery Services) confirmed the way in which funds were allocated to local authority areas by the Scottish Government, citing a range of factors that were taken into account, only one of which was deprivation within some areas of East Renfrewshire. It was acknowledged that drug and alcohol misuse was not just confined to areas of deprivation.

The Committee:-

- (a) agreed that further information and data be provided on drug and alcohol use by young people in East Renfrewshire, specifically if increased taxation on alcohol and minimum unit pricing of it had led to an increase in drug use amongst young people and a reduction in their consumption of alcohol on the basis of cost; and
- (b) otherwise, noted the report and related comments made.

INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024/25 – IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS – JANUARY TO MARCH 2025 (QUARTER 4)

1202. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 28 March 2024 (Page 810, Item 799 refers), when the Internal Audit Strategic Plan for 2024/25 to 2028/29 had been approved, the Committee considered a report by the Chief Auditor regarding progress made on the implementation of the Plan from 1 January to 31 March 2025.

It was confirmed that nine reports relating to planned 2024/25 audit work had been issued since the last progress report had been considered, details of which were provided. Reference was also made to the quarterly performance indicators (PIs) for the section, three of which had not been met. Two requests for assistance had been dealt with using contingency time, one of which concerned the Council Tax issues discussed earlier in the meeting.

The Chief Auditor highlighted various issues, confirming that good progress was being made on implementing the Plan. She reported that there had been no issues raised of major concern from the audits, but drew attention to some recommendations arising from the commercial

rents audit, some of which it was hoped would be addressed by moving the rental information currently held on a database to a system already used by the Council. She also clarified that some of the recommendations made on housing allocations would be addressed by the implementation of a more automated system for allocating properties, and that it had been noted that the development of a new housing allocation policy was underway. She confirmed that further clarification would be provided in the 2024/25 Internal Audit Annual Report on the PIs where performance exceeded target, the one on time spent on contingency being out with the control of the section.

In response to Councillor Wallace, the Chief Auditor commented that requests for assistance requiring the use of contingency time arose for various reasons, citing examples and confirming that priority tended to be given to an alleged theft, or if there was a deadline to be met on an issue for example.

In response to Councillor Ireland, the Chief Auditor clarified that the audit regarding highway maintenance did not focus on the quality of repairs, and that a report on follow-up audit work done on environment department audits would be circulated to members of the Committee in the normal manner in due course, updating them on any outstanding recommendations.

The Committee, having heard Councillor Morrison comment that he considered the time spent by Internal Audit on the Council Tax issues referred to earlier in the meeting to be well spent, agreed to note the report and related comments made.

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2024/25 AND 2025/26 WORK PLANS

1203. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 20 June 2024 (Page 888, Item 883 refers), when the Committee had noted that a report on performance against the Committee's 2024/25 Work Plan would be submitted to a future meeting, the Committee considered a report by the Clerk providing an update on the 2024/25 Work Plan and related performance, and seeking approval of the 2025/26 Work Plan to the extent it had been developed thus far.

The Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note performance against the Committee's 2024/25 Annual Work Plan;
- (b) to approve the draft 2025/26 Annual Work Plan, to the extent it had been developed thus far;
- (c) that development of the 2025/26 Work Plan continue; and
- (d) to note that performance on delivering the 2025/26 Work Plan would be reviewed by the Committee in due course.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 29 May 2025.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader) Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Andrew Anderson (Vice Chair)(*) Councillor Katie Pragnell

Councillor O'Donnell, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Alexis Chappell, Chief Officer, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer); Kenny Markwick, Head of Environment (Operations); Jamie Reid, Head of Communities and Transformation; Mark Rodgers, Head of Housing and Property; Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place; Graeme Hay, Education Senior Manager, Leading Change; Susan Craynor, Community Learning and Development Manager; John Burke, Democratic Services Officer; and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

(*) indicates remote attendance

LEADER'S REMARKS

The Leader welcomed Alexis Chappell, Chief Officer, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership to her first meeting of Cabinet.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1204. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK – 2023/24 PERFORMANCE

1205. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive updating the Cabinet on the national Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) and presenting a high level comparative overview of the Council's performance against the LGBF indicators for 2023/24.

The LGBF had been established and publicly reported by all Scottish councils as a statutory requirement since 2010/11.

A comprehensive breakdown of the performance information for each service was listed in Annex 1 to the report and those were summarised in the report.

There followed a discussion where members scrutinised the data provided. A question was raised about the measure relating to cost per visit to sports centres, with further information to be provided to Councillor Pragnell.

Following the discussion, the Cabinet:-

- (a) scrutinised and noted the Council's performance against the comparative information provided in the report;
- (b) did not request any aspect of the Council's performance to be investigated further; and
- (c) noted that the Education Senior Manager, Leading Change would provide further information to Councillor Pragnell on the cost for attendance at sports facilities mentioned on Page 16 of the document.

COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS AND 2025-28 PLAN

1206. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships on the positive impact of the 2021-2024 Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan, and seeking approval for the new CLD Plan 2025-2028 and associated Year One Action Plan.

The report provided an overview of progress made over the period of the previous plan, with the full summary of its achievements and impacts given in Annex 1 and 2 of the report.

A copy of the proposed CLD Plan for 2025-2028 as well as the associated Year One Action Plan were provided as Annex 3 and 4 of the report.

In discussing the item, Cabinet requested that a summary, showing the strong links between the new CLD Plan and "A Place to Grow" be provided in the first review of the Plan.

Following the discussion, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the positive impact on communities of the Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024 as set out in Annex 1 and 2 of the report;
- (b) approved the new Community Learning and Development Plan 2025-2028 in Annex 3 and the Year One Action Plan in Annex 4 of the report; and
- (c) noted that a summary/overview linking to "A Place to Grow" would be provided with the next review of the Plan.

CREDIT UNION – PROPOSED INITIAL INVESTMENT

1207. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships seeking approval of proposals to re-establish a credit union presence back within East Renfrewshire and provision of initial seed-funding to support implementation.

East Renfrewshire had been without a local credit union since the demise of the Barrhead based Pioneer Mutual Credit Union in 2021. There had been a long standing commitment to reinstating a credit union back into East Renfrewshire and discussions had taken place with

potential providers. The report detailed the process which had been undertaken to find a suitable partner organisation.

Pollok Credit Union had engaged with the Council's process and been reviewed by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships in consultation with colleagues across the Council to ensure the competence of their proposal. Following that process, it was considered that the proposal was competent and had scope to develop a sustainable service within Barrhead and broader areas of East Renfrewshire. The full details of the proposal were outlined in the report.

Cabinet welcomed the proposal and, in particular, expressed keenness to find a suitable accommodation for the credit union's base in Barrhead, with several options being discussed and reviewed.

The Cabinet approved:-

- (a) partnership working with Pollok Credit Union Ltd (PCU) and other community planning partners to re-establish a credit union presence in East Renfrewshire;
- (b) initial seed-funding of up to £200,000 over 3 years from the Community Capacity Building Reserve (via top-up from the Investment for the Future Reserve) to support the start-up costs of the Credit Union until a break-even position;
- (c) the award of 100% charitable relief for Non-Domestic Rates to the credit union from the opening of the PCU branch in Barrhead until further notice and subsequent amendment of the Non-Domestic Rates policy;
- (d) delegation to the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships to liaise with the credit union and partners; oversee any initial investment to assist the East Renfrewshire branch to start-up and reach a break-even position; and maintain scrutiny on the development of the credit union's business plan toward sustainable status; and
- (e) delegation to the Directors of Business Operations and Partnerships and Environment to work together with PCU to determine and facilitate a suitable central location for the Credit Union base in Barrhead, noting that this may require an interim temporary location for the initial period of operation.

MINUTE OF JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER) HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2025

1208. The minute of the Joint Consultative Committee (First Tier) held on 12 February 2025 was submitted for noting.

The Cabinet noted the minute

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 4th June 2025.

Present:

Councillor Paul Edlin
Councillor Annette Ireland
Councillor Chris Lunday

Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Jim McLean (Vice Chair)
Councillor Andrew Morrison

Attending:

Caitriona McAuley, Director of Environment; Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place; Michelle McGuckin, Chief Planner and Building Standards Manager; Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement); Derek Scott, Principal Planner (Development Management); Graeme Smith, Communications Manager; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

(*) denotes remote attendance

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

1209. In accordance with Standing Order No.16, the Committee was required to appoint a chair for this meeting from those Members present.

Accordingly, Provost Montague, seconded by Councillor Lunday, proposed that Councillor Ireland be appointed Chair. This proposal was accepted unanimously.

Councillor Ireland in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS – COUNCILLOR BETTY CUNNINGHAM

1210. The chair remarked on the recent passing of Councillor Betty Cunningham, the chair of the Committee. In her memory, a minute's silence was observed by all present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1211. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

1170

MOTION ON NOTICE

1212. Prior to consideration of this item, the Chair considered the competency of the motion and received the legal opinion of external King's Counsel on the matter from the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement).

Thereafter, in accordance with Standing Order No. 16, she ruled that the motion on the notice was not competent and, therefore, would not be considered.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
LOCAL REVIEW BODY

Minute of meeting held at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on June 4th 2025.

Present:

Councillor Jim McLean
Councillor Paul Edlin

Councillor Annette Ireland
Councillor Andrew Morrison

Councillor McLean in the Chair

Attending:

Mark Brand, Planning Adviser; Gerry Mahon, Chief Solicitor; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer, Michelle McGuckin Chief Planner and Building Standards Manager.

Apologies:

Councillor Chris Lunday and Provost Mary Montague.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1213. No interests were declared.

The Chair advised that a site visit had been held prior to the meeting.

NOTICE OF REVIEW – REVIEW 2025/06 – ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE AT 31 HOLEHOUSE TERRACE, NEILSTON, G78 3LT. (REF NO:- 2024/0536/TP).

1214. The Local Review Body considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships relative to a 'Notice of Review' submitted by Mr Steven Lang against the decision taken by officers to refuse planning permission in respect of the erection of a dwellinghouse at 31 Holehouse Terrace, Neilston.

The decision had been made in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation made in terms of Section 43A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended.

The Local Review Body, having considered the information previously circulated, agreed that it had sufficient information to determine the review without further procedure.

The Planning Adviser outlined the planning application and reasons for refusal as determined by the Appointed Officer in the decision notice and the applicant's grounds for review.

The Planning Adviser further outlined the proposed condition to be attached to any consent in the event the Local Review Body overturned the decision of the Appointed Officer and granted planning permission.

Discussion took place, particularly around the proposed conditions, and the fact that this was a planning application “in principle” with a further detailed application required before consent on any particular construction was given.

Following the discussion, and having heard from the Planning Adviser, the Local Review Body agreed that the Appointed Officer’s decision be overturned and planning permission granted, subject to standard conditions and the following conditions:

- 1. The development hereby approved must be begun not later than the expiration of 5 years, beginning with the date on which the permission is granted;*
- 2. Development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed site layout. The proposed layout shall be shown on a plan at a scale of 1:500, showing existing and proposed site levels, the position of the dwellinghouse, the position of the driveway/parking area, the garden ground as well as any hard surfaced areas. Thereafter, the matters that are approved shall be implemented in their approved form;*
- 3. Development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed floor plans and elevations of the dwellinghouse to be erected on site and shall show dimensions as well as the type and colour of all external materials;*
- 4. Development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to all walls (including retaining walls) and fences to be erected on site;*
- 5. The principles of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) for the surface water regime shall be incorporated into the development. Development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to details of the surface water management and SUDS proposals. Thereafter, the surface water management details shall be fully implemented in their approved form;*
- 6. Development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to a scheme setting out the measurements to be put in place as required by Policy E1 (Sustainable Design) of the adopted Local Development Plan 2. The said scheme shall include any phasing details as necessary. Thereafter, the approved scheme shall be implemented as approved;*
- 7. For the avoidance of doubt, the required visibility splay where the driveway meets Holehouse Terrace is 2.0m x 20m in both the primary and secondary directions with no interference allowed within the splay above a height of 1.05m. This visibility splay must thereafter be maintained in perpetuity;*
- 8. For the avoidance of doubt, surface water run-off from the proposed access must be contained within the site and not permitted to issue onto the public road by sloping*

away from the public road or by means of a suitable positive drainage system. Development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to these details. Thereafter, the approved details shall be fully implemented as approved; and

9. *There shall be no construction work or offloading of delivered materials at the development site out with the hours of 0800 to 1900 Monday to Friday and 0800 to 1300 on Saturday with no working on Sunday or local or national public holidays unless minor and temporary amendments have been otherwise agreed in advance in writing by the Planning Authority.*

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE & FIRE)

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 5 June 2025.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)
Councillor Caroline Bamforth

Councillor Katie Pragnell
Councillor Gordon Wallace

Councillor O'Donnell in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Stephen Bell, Community Safety Manager; and John Burke, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Chief Superintendent Emma Croft; Chief Inspector Gillian Faulds, (Area Commander), Police Scotland; and Group Commander Alan Coughtrie, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apology:

Councillors Andrew Anderson and Danny Devlin.

LEADER'S REMARKS

1215. The Leader remarked upon Chief Superintendent Emma Croft attending her first meeting of the Cabinet (Police & Fire). He paid tribute to the work of Chief Superintendent Lynn Ratcliff and welcomed Chief Superintendent Croft.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1216. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 4 - 2024-25

1217. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the police over the fourth quarter of 2024-25. The report also provided statistical information in relation to various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period together with comparative statistics for the corresponding period in 2023-24.

The report provided a summary of police performance against the five local policing priorities contained in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2023-26, with the information summarised.

The report also contained examples of the work being done in East Renfrewshire by officers of Police Scotland on all of the areas of focus covered.

There followed a question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent Croft and Chief Inspector Faulds responded to a number of questions and provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire and the crime statistics recorded in the report. In particular, on indecent online communications and the inappropriate use of AI, the nature of hate crimes taking place in East Renfrewshire, issues around resourcing in response to new legislation, anti-social behaviour and the upgrading of CCTV in some areas, and the welcome reduction in housebreaking and the drivers behind that reduction.

The Cabinet noted the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2024-25

1218. The Cabinet considered a report by the Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the fourth quarter of 2024-25 against the key priorities in their local plan.

Introducing the report, Group Commander Coughtrie referred to the new layout of the report. He indicated that this was a work in progress and invited members to provide feedback on what works well for them and on other things they may wish to see added or changed.

Group Commander Coughtrie then reported on the performance of SFRS on performance over quarter 4, summarising the information provided in the report.

There followed a question and answer session in the course of which Group Commander Coughtrie responded to members questions on the new reporting format, the upcoming Fire Skills course and success of other diversionary activities within the Council area, the use of smoke hoods in fire incidents, and the assessment and readiness of response in terms of vehicles and facilities containing lithium ion batteries.

Thereafter the Cabinet agreed to note the report.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 10 June 2025.

Present:

Councillor Paul Edlin
Councillor Kate Campbell

Councillor Colm Merrick
Councillor David Macdonald
Councillor Andrew Morrison

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Nicola McEleny, Senior Solicitor; David Higgins, Civic Licensing Standards Officer; Jillian McGrain, Senior Officer (Private Sector); Andrew Reid, Empty Homes Officer; Lesleyann Burns, Democratic Services Officer and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

Also Attending:

Inspector Allan Ferris, Police Scotland and Sergeant Emma Gardner.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1219. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

VEHICLE AGE LIMITS

1220. The Committee considered a report by the Clerk to consider approval to review the age limits for taxi and private hire vehicles.

The report set out that given the current economic climate, licence holders pursued through representation to have the age limits removed. It detailed relevant legislation from The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to remove the age threshold for taxi and private hire vehicles at initial point of licensing; and
- (b) to remove the upper age threshold for taxi and private hire vehicles.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the Committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

PRIVATE LANDLORD REGISTRATION

1221. The committee considered a report by the Director of Environment regarding an application for inclusion on the Register of Social Landlords under the terms of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended (agenda item 4 refers).

The Senior Housing Officer (Private Sector) was heard in respect of the application and in response to questions from Members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application and in response to questions.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

Following discussion the committee concluded that the applicant was a 'fit and proper' person to be entered upon the register of private landlords and approved the Applicant's application for landlord registration.

PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR GRANT

1222. The Committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) in relation to an application for the grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence (agenda item 5 refers).

The applicant was present.

Inspector Alan Ferris and Sergeant Emma Gardner, representing the Chief Constable, who had made an objection to the application, were also present.

Inspector Ferris was heard in respect of the representation submitted by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the Committee, having taken account of the applicant's previous convictions, their seriousness and relevance to the licence being applied for, and also having taken account of the representation by the Chief Constable, agreed that the application be refused on the grounds that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to be the holder of such a licence.

PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – ALLEGED BREACH OF LICENSING CONDITIONS

1223. The Committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) in relation to an alleged breach of conditions of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence (agenda item 6 refers).

The licensee was present.

The licensee was then heard in respect of the allegations and made representations in relation to same.

Having heard from the Licensee the Committee considered there was insufficient evidence to uphold the allegations made and made the decision not to revoke the Licence's Private Hire Car Operator's Licence or Private Hire Driver's Licence.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting, held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on Thursday 12 June 2025.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Anderson (Chair)	Ms Fiona Gilchrist
Councillor Kate Campbell	Ms Dorothy Graham
Councillor Katie Pragnell (Vice Chair)	Mr Des Morris
Councillor Colm Merrick	Ms Evelyn Yedd
Councillor Gordon Wallace*	

Councillor Anderson in the Chair

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Janice Collins, Head of Education Services (Quality Improvement and Performance); Rosamund Coyle-Bennet, Quality Improvement Officer; Joe McCaig, Head Of Education Services (Provision); Siobhan McColgan, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity); Graeme Hay, Education Senior Manager (Leading Change); Tracy Morton, Education Senior Manager (Developing People); John Burke, Democratic Services Officer and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Nicola MacGlashan, Head Teacher, Williamwood High School.

Apologies:

Councillors Tony Buchanan, Danny Devlin and Owen O'Donnell.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1224. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT ON WILLIAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

1225. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education informing members of the report produced by Education Scotland following its inspection of Williamwood High School. A copy of the inspection report accompanied the report.

The inspection had been carried out by Education Scotland in February 2025. It had covered key aspects of the work of the school and had identified particular strengths and areas for improvement using the short model of the Education Scotland six-point scale and self-evaluation framework.

In assessing the indicators of quality in the school, Education Scotland found one aspect of the work to be very good: learning, teaching and assessment, and the other, raising attainment and achievement to be excellent.

The report highlighted particular strengths identified by the inspection team: in particular: the highly motivated young people who were determined to achieve well; positive relationships across the school which supported a constructive and purposeful culture of learning, the Head Teacher, senior leaders and staff worked very successfully with young people to develop a high quality and well-structured framework of key principles in learning; teaching and assessment; the extensive range of activities and programs which supported and developed wider achievements; and a culture where all young people were encouraged to succeed and flourished.

The inspection team also identified one area for improvement: to continue to build on highly effective planning in learning, teaching and assessment. This would include further development of approaches to learning, teaching and assessment and improving attainment and achievement in the Communication and Support Service.

Members congratulated the Head Teacher on the report and commended the commitment of all of the school's pupils and staff.

The Committee then heard the Head Teacher, who shared that she was proud of the numerous references throughout the report that highlighted how articulate, confident and driven the young people were for themselves and each other. She took the opportunity to thank all involved including the staff, young people, Committee, elected members and Education Department for their support and dedication to the school.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee agreed to approve the action plan to address the agreed areas for improvement in the Communication Support Service.

SPOTLIGHT ON EARLY YEARS TRACKING TOOL

1226. The Head of Service (Quality Improvement and Performance) invited the Quality Improvement Officer to present the spotlight presentation on the Early Years Tracking Tool and asked the Committee to consider as part of the context the presentation given on 14 November 2024 (Page 1013, Item 1038 refers).

The Quality Improvement Officer highlighted the work undertaken on the improvement of how education track and monitor children's progress through the Early Years Tracking Tool. Development began in 2017, locally and nationally, across early years settings to improve the approach to tracking and monitoring to provide added value to children's development and learning.

In collaboration with senior leaders and members of the Education Psychology service, a tracking tool had been developed which was linked to the curriculum for excellence and also took account of children's development milestones for all ages in a range of established skills.

A demonstration of the Early Years Tracking Tool was included in the presentation which was given to the Committee in advance for review.

After testing was concluded, the rollout of the dashboard functionality would begin in Early Years establishments with support given to the Head Teachers, senior leaders and staff.

Members commended the work of all involved in developing the tool and particularly the focus on getting it right for every child.

In discussion, members were also advised on the positive response nationally to the tool and on how parents could engage with the information within the tool.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE ANNUAL REPORT

1227. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education advising on the approaches taken to develop Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) services. The report outlined the steps taken to improve the quality, flexibility, accessibility and affordability of provision and experiences for young children.

The report contained a summary of the key information on the provision in East Renfrewshire, with full details provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

In discussion, members were provided further information on Council provision for the 0-2 age group, the ongoing improvement programme in some education settings and the impact of deferrals on primary provision.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee:-

- (a) noted the continued progress of the delivery of 1140 hours Early Learning and Childcare; and
- (b) agreed the proposed sustainable rate for funded providers and consented to back date payments to 1 April 2025.

EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT ON EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL'S EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S APPROACHES TO SUPPORT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

1228. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education on the report by Education Scotland on the Education's Department approach to support school improvement.

In June 2024, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education announced a national thematic inspection of local authorities in Scotland. The focus of this thematic inspection was how local authorities support schools to improve. The four key themes which were in focus as part of the inspection were outlined in the report.

In September 2024, two of His Majesty's Inspectors and an Associate Assessor from another local authority spent 4 days in East Renfrewshire analysing documentation and speaking to a range of stakeholders including: school staff, school leaders, quality improvement team, education leadership team, parents and Education Committee members.

A short report was published and shared in March 2025 (Appendix 1) along with the national report detailing a summary of the position across all 32 local authorities. The report recognised

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the commitment to professional learning within the Education Department and identified leading practice that was worth sharing nationally.

Along with the Quality Improvement Team, the Head of Service (Performance and Quality Improvement) will address the areas shared in Paragraph 13 above and align with operational action plans linked to the Local Improvement Plan 2025 – 2028.

THERE WAS AN ADJOURNMENT AT 10:55AM.

THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED AT 11AM.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee noted the report.

WEST PARTNERSHIP REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE: LESSONS FROM 2017 - 2025

1229. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education to inform members of the key actions undertaken by the West Partnership (Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative) between 2017 and 2025, their impact and the lessons learned for future regional collaboration.

The Committee noted the progress of the West Partnership Improvement Plan in September 2024 (Page 946, Item 957 refers). Following the Cabinet Secretary's announcement to cease funding for regional improvement collaboratives in March 2025, a new collaborative framework has been agreed by the West Partnership.

This report summarised evidence from two key papers which noted actions undertaken by the West Partnership from 2017 through to 2025. It highlighted the impact and lessons learned for future regional collaboration.

In discussion, members commended the efforts of the Director of Education and the West Partnership for finding a way to continue the benefits of the collaborative approach without central funding. An update was also provided on the work to establish the new Centre for Excellence in Teaching and how it would integrate into the existing systems.

Having heard members comment on the report, the Committee noted the report.

REPORT ON UPDATED APPROACH ON GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD IN EAST RENFREWSHIRE

1230. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education to update members on the refresh of national GIRFEC guidance and subsequent update of East Renfrewshire Council's GIRFEC Manual, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and creation of Getting it Right for Every Child Information Sharing Guidance, attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The report outlined key changes that had been made to both documents as a result of changes to national guidance in those areas and those were summarised in the report.

In discussion, members commended the report, in particular, the importance of updated guidance for staff on gender based violence and the use of mobile devices in schools, with consultation to take place with parents, carers, school staff, children and young people on a number of subjects, including the use of mobile devices in schools. The results of that consultation would be presented to the Committee when available.

Having heard members comment on the report, the Committee agreed to :-

- (a) note the refreshed national GIRFEC guidance; and
- (b) noted the updated East Renfrewshire GIRFEC Manual attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and GIRFEC Information Sharing Guidance attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

THE CLOSURE OF GLEN FAMILY CENTRE AND FUTURE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AGED 0-3 YEARS RESIDING IN THE EAST OF THE AUTHORITY FOR SCHOOL SESSION 2026/27 AND BEYOND

1231. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education seeking approval to undertake a statutory education consultation on the proposal to rationalise the education estate by closing Glen Family Centre and introducing 0 to 3 year old services, (currently provided at Glen Family Centre), to Glenwood Family Centre before the commencement of the 2026-27 academic year.

Almost all Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings across East Renfrewshire Council delivered services from the age of 3 until the commencement of primary education with a small number providing services for children aged 2 to 3 years. Glen Family Centre was one of two settings to provide services for ages across 0 to 3 years. Along with other local authorities, the Council had a statutory requirement to meet the demand of local residents with due regard to efficient use of resources and best value approaches.

A formal consultation proposal was attached as Appendix 1 regarding the proposed movement of those services to the nearby Glenwood Family Centre. The further implications of the proposals were set out within that document.

Given that the legislative timescale of the consultation did not align with Council's admission processing timeline, it was proposed that the Committee meeting planned for 13 November 2025 be rescheduled to 18 December 2025 to consider the director's report on the proposal.

Councillor Wallace recognised the difficulty of closing education establishments. Any potential saving for benefit of the department is welcomed and given the condition of Glen Family Centre, a short distance move to Glenwood Family Centre makes sense. He encouraged families to get involved in the consultation. He asked regarding Paragraph 13 in Appendix 1, how many families with children under 2 reside in the catchment and would they be required to move to another establishment when turning 3?

The Education Senior Manager advised that, of those children currently attending Glen, approximately 40% resided within the Giffnock and Thornliebank communities, with around 35% residing within Newton Mearns. This demonstrated that a significant portion of those attending were travelling to the centre from Newton Mearns to access provision. This data would inform future service provision across the authority.

In discussion, members received further information on the demand for the services detailed in the report and expressed support for the consultation process, urging all stakeholders to respond.

Having heard members comment on the report, the Committee agreed:

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- (a) to approve that the Director of Education proceeds with a consultation on the proposal to rationalise the education estate by closing Glen Family Centre and introducing 0 to 3 year old services (currently provided at Glen Family Centre) to Glenwood Family Centre before the commencement of the 2026-27 academic year; and
- (b) to instruct the Director of Education to report on the consultation at a re-arranged Education Committee on 18 December 2025 (rearranged from 13 November 2025).

CHAIR