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MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE AND FIRE)

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 22 February 2018.

Present:

Councillor Colm Merrick (Chair)
Councillor Caroline Bamforth
Councillor Tony Buchanan

Councillor Barbara Grant
Councillor Alan Lafferty

Councillor Merrick in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; and Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Superintendent Donna Henderson and Inspector John McQuilter, Police Scotland; and Group Manager Mark Gallacher, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apologies:

Councillors Danny Devlin; Stewart Miller; and Paul O'Kane (Vice Chair).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

312. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18

313. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland providing details of the performance of the police in East Renfrewshire over the third quarter of 2017/18. A statistical report giving a breakdown of various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period was appended to the report.

In the absence of Chief Superintendent Brian McNulty and Chief Inspector Angela Carty, it was noted that Superintendent Donna Henderson and Inspector John McQuilter were representing Police Scotland.

Superintendent Henderson provided some background information about her responsibilities within the Greater Glasgow Division, one of which was being Chief Inspector Carty's line manager. At this stage, she invited Inspector McQuilter to provide further details about the information contained in the performance report.

Inspector McQuilter began by highlighting that East Renfrewshire Police Scotland Youth Volunteers had completed their induction course and had been able to get involved in their first community project in December 2017 delivering Christmas hampers to pensioners. He summarised the performance of the police during the reported period by referring to the local policing priorities that were identified in the East Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2017/20. These were noted as Homes Being Broken Into; Anti-social Behaviour and Disorder; Violent Crime; Drug Dealing and Misuse; and Child Abuse Including Child Sexual Exploitation.

Whilst noting that the number of homes that had been broken into had decreased from 100 in the corresponding period the previous year to 92 in the reported period, and having noted that a number of arrests had been made, Inspector McQuilter emphasised the importance of communities working with the police to protect their homes through crime prevention measures, particularly in reporting anything that was out of the ordinary. He also highlighted that anti-social behaviour remained a community priority and that the police continued to focus their efforts on preventing disorder. Details of the objectives of the police in tackling this problem were outlined in the report. It was noted that one of the measures being taken to address the problem was the use of diversionary tactics where young people were being engaged in a programme of activities such as boxing and football amongst other things. In addition, campus officers continued to give talks to school pupils about the impact anti-social behaviour was having on their local communities.

Inspector McQuilter reported that in terms of violent crime, the recorded number of victims of violence had reduced when compared to the corresponding period the previous year and that there were no robberies recorded during the course of the reported period. He also highlighted that the festive season saw a rise in the demand for policing services due to an increase in acts of crime. However, as a result of the 'Winter Initiative Plan' which involved high visibility patrols engaging with local businesses and staff at licensed premises the police had seen a reduction in overall crime and no serious violence during that period. Furthermore, the number of domestic abuse victims continued to decrease and it was noted that the police continued their work with partner organisations such as East Renfrewshire Women's Aid and Advocacy, Support, Safety and Information Services (ASSIST).

Concluding his remarks, Inspector McQuilter provided details on the number of detections of drug dealing and misuse and the work of campus officers in raising awareness in young people about the threats of child abuse and child sexual exploitation. He also explained that in response to concerns expressed about the safety of children in and around schools at the start and end of the school day, the police were working in partnership with the Council to progress in the longer term the 'Park and Stride' project the aim of which was to discourage drivers from bringing their vehicles in close proximity to schools and to encourage healthy aspects of walking to school. He also advised that 2 schools were being chosen each day for police patrols to visit the aim of which was for officers to educate parents about road safety issues in and around schools.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Superintendent Henderson and Inspector McQuilter responded to a number of questions and provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire. These included campus officers; dealing with incidents of domestic abuse; road safety in and around schools and the measures being taken to tackle anti-social behaviour.

During the discussion of these issues, the Chief Executive advised that there were no plans in the Council's budget consultation that would impact on the continued operation of campus officers. Inspector McQuilter also indicated that the police were fully supportive of the work being carried out by campus officers.

Responding to a question about incidents of domestic abuse, Inspector McQuilter explained that all officers were trained to deal with such incidents although one of the problems the police faced in conducting their investigations into such incidents was that some victims were reluctant to co-operate and that as a result it was difficult to report such matters to the Procurator Fiscal service.

Inspector McQuilter also advised that the 'Park and Stride' project had been launched at Kirkhill Primary School, with proposals to roll the project out to other schools in the future. Superintendent Henderson and Inspector McQuilter also commented that the police would respond to any incidents of aggressive driver behaviour in and around schools and advised that any such incidents should be reported to them.

In response to a question regarding the absence of detection rates recorded in the report about anti-social behaviour, Inspector McQuilter explained the reason was that not every incident of anti-social behaviour resulted in a crime being committed.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2017/18

314. The Cabinet considered a report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the third quarter of 2017/18. An analysis of the incidents in each of the Council's five electoral wards during the reported period was appended to the report.

In the absence of Local Senior Officer Graeme Binning and Group Manager Colin Martin, it was noted that Group Manager Mark Gallacher was representing SFRS.

Group Manager Gallacher reported that the performance of the service was measured against the key performance indicators detailed in the East Renfrewshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014/17. These were noted as Accidental Dwelling Fires; All Non-Fatal Fire Casualties; Deliberate Fire Raising; Fires in Non-Domestic Buildings; Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals; and Road Traffic Collisions. He summarised the performance by comparing each of the indicators against the performance recorded in the corresponding period in 2017.

Whilst noting that the total number of accidental dwelling fires had increased from 13 in the corresponding period in 2016/17 to 25 in the current reported period although only 1 required an intervention by SFRS, Group Manager Gallacher highlighted that the total number of all non-fatal fire casualties had remained the same when compared to the corresponding period in 2016/17. He reported that the total number of incidents involving deliberate fire raising had seen a slight increase from 27 in the corresponding period in 2016/17 to 28 in the current reported period. Similarly the total number of fires in non-domestic buildings showed a slight increase from 6 in the corresponding period in 2016/17 to 7 in the current reported period. It was noted that the total number of unwanted fire alarm signals had increased from 54 in the corresponding period in 2016/17 to 78 in the current reported period.

Group Manager Gallacher also reported that the total number of road traffic collision incidents attended by SFRS which resulted in non-fatal casualties, had increased from 5 in the corresponding period in 2016/17 to 8 in the current reported period. The number of recorded casualties had increased from 8 in the corresponding period in 2016/17 to 11 in the current reported period. However, it was noted that there were no fatalities recorded within the reported period.

Whilst outlining the range of partnership and community engagement activities undertaken by SFRS during the third quarter of 2017/18, Group Manager Gallacher explained that these included attendance at the weekly meetings of the Greater Results in Partnership (GRIP) and providing support to the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in relation to fire safety awareness training. Other activities included supporting the work of the SFRS autumn thematic action plan including presentations to a total of 2,080 secondary school pupils on firework talks and bonfire safety. In addition, the service continued to support partners in joint home fire safety visits within sheltered accommodation units and that the Community Action Team and Retired Employee Association (REA) volunteers had conducted 25 home fire safety visits for East Renfrewshire Telecare.

Group Manager Gallacher also reported that a total of 393 home fire safety visits had been carried out in East Renfrewshire during the third quarter of 2017/18, 39 of which were as a result of high risk referrals from East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partners and 84 as a result of Post Domestic Incident Responses (PDIR). He explained that the SFRS conducted a PDIR of all domestic dwelling incidents including fire alarm actuations and special services. This involved positive engagement with the occupier(s) of the affected property and neighbouring properties by SFRS personnel and where required SFRS provided and fitted 10 year battery powered smoke detectors.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Group Manager Gallacher responded to and provided clarification on a number of questions in relation to operational issues in East Renfrewshire. These included accidental fires; the installation of sprinklers in buildings; factors associated with fire starting; and causes of unwanted fire alarm signals.

During the discussion of these issues, Group Manager Gallacher explained in terms of accidental fires whilst there no specific details in the report to suggest that age was a factor in this type of fire although he would review the age groups involved in such fires to establish if this was the case. In response to a question about what progress had been made regarding the installation of sprinklers into buildings, he advised that SFRS was campaigning for this to happen and that the Scottish Government was giving consideration to the matter. He also advised that distraction was now the main factor associated with fire starting whereas in the past alcohol had been one of the main factors.

In response to concerns expressed about unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS), Group Manager Gallacher acknowledged that there were more false alarm signals in residential home/nursing homes and that SFRS attended a range of false alarm incidents due to faulty systems. He highlighted that SFRS had powers to take enforcement action against those premises that did not repair faulty systems and could reduce the number of visits to a set of premises if they had a history of false alarms.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 2 March 2018.

Present:

Provost Jim Fletcher	Councillor Annette Ireland
Depute Provost Betty Cunningham	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Paul Aitken	Councillor Jim McLean
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor Colm Merrick
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)	Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Angela Convery	Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Danny Devlin	Councillor Jim Swift
Councillor Charlie Gilbert	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Barbara Grant	

Provost Fletcher in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education; Phil Daws, Head of Environment (Strategic Services); Candy Millard, Head of Strategic Services; Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Paul O’Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Apology:

Councillor David Macdonald.

IAN HUTCHISON OBE

315. Provost Fletcher advised the Council of the recent sad death of Mr Ian Hutchison, OBE, a former Provost and Councillor of Eastwood District Council until local government reorganisation in 1996 and an East Renfrewshire Councillor from 1996 until 2007. He commented that despite their political differences Mr Hutchison was a man he had greatly respected and had enjoyed debating with him. Having referred to some of the offices held by Mr Hutchison both locally and nationally, Provost Fletcher referred to his own early days as a member of Eastwood District Council when Mr Hutchison had been the Chair of the Planning and Development Committee and how Mr Hutchison had never been afraid to make a difficult decision if he considered it was the right decision to make.

Thereafter the Council observed a minute’s silence in honour of Mr Hutchison.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

316. Councillors Devlin, Grant, Merrick and O’Kane declared a non-financial interest on the items East Renfrewshire Council Revenue Estimates 2018/19 (Item 325) and General Fund Capital Plan 2018/19 – 2025/26 (Item 327) on the grounds that they were members of the Board of the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

317. The Council considered the Minute of the meeting held on 13 December 2017.

Councillor Merrick referred to an article which appeared in the local press following the last meeting which indicated that no vote had taken place in relation to the exempt item that was considered at the meeting, and sought clarification whether a vote should have taken place.

In reply, the Democratic Services Manager explained that as there was no amendment at the meeting to the proposals contained in the report, a vote was not required.

The Council noted the position and approved the Minute.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

318. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted, except as otherwise referred to in Item 319 below:-

- (a) Local Review Body – 17 January 2018;
- (b) Licensing Committee – 23 January 2018;
- (c) Cabinet – 25 January 2018;
- (d) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 25 January 2018;
- (e) Education Committee – 1 February 2018;
- (f) Planning Applications Committee – 14 February 2018;
- (g) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 19 February 2018;
- (h) Licensing Committee – 20 February 2018; and
- (i) Cabinet (Police and Fire) – 22 February 2018.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE – 14 FEBRUARY 2018 – NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING APPEALS AND APPEAL DECISIONS

319. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Planning Applications Committee of 14 February 2018 (Page 271, Item 304 refers), when the committee noted a report by the Director of Environment regarding the notification of planning appeals and appeal decisions, Councillor Ireland stated that at the meeting it had been agreed that a request be made to the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals for a Reporter to visit a future meeting of the committee to explain the reasons why two of the most recent appeals had been upheld and the committee’s decisions overturned resulting in planning permission being granted for the respective applications. This decision had been omitted from the Minute and she requested that the Minute be amended accordingly.

In reply, the Democratic Services Manager stated that notwithstanding, he understood that arrangements would be made to contact the Scottish Government’s Reporters Unit requesting that a Reporter attend a future meeting of the committee for the purpose outlined above.

Noting the position, the Council approved the Minute subject to the following amendment:-

That at the end of the item there be added the following:-

“That an invitation to attend a future meeting of the committee to explain reasons why 2 recent appeals had been upheld, overturning the committee’s decision to refuse planning permission, be extended to the Scottish Government Reporters Unit.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT

320. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of 19 February 2018 (Page 277, Item 307 refers), when it was agreed amongst other things to recommend to the Council that the Treasury Strategy Statement Report 2018/19 be approved, including the amendment of treasury management practices in accordance with Annex F to the report; and that the policy on the repayment of loans fund advances as specified in Section 6.4 of the report be approved, the Council considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, advising on the Treasury Management Strategy for the financial year 2018/19.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) that the Treasury Strategy Management Strategy for 2018/19 be approved, including the amendment of treasury management practices in accordance with Annex F to the report; and
- (b) to approve the policy on the repayment of loans fund advances as detailed in the report.

STATEMENTS BY CONVENERS/REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BOARDS/COMMITTEES

321. The following statements were made:-

- (a) **Integration Joint Board – Councillor Bamforth**

Prior to making her statement, Councillor Bamforth expressed her thanks to Health and Social Care Partnership staff who had battled through the recent treacherous weather to ensure that the most vulnerable residents in the Council’s local communities received support. She also thanked staff and councillors who had volunteered their time and vehicles to drive staff to and from the residents’ homes.

She then reported that at the most recent meeting of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on 14 February a presentation had been given by Dr Michael Smith on the new mental health strategy for Glasgow, the emphasis of the new strategy being on recovery.

Furthermore, the IJB had approved the consultative draft of its new Strategic Plan for health and social care in East Renfrewshire which linked to community, regional and NHSGGC developing plans. The Plan built upon the work over the last 3 years with a new set of focussed strategic priorities and an ambitious change programme. She highlighted that the next phase of the

work was to develop the Financial and Commissioning Plan which would consider the budget decisions made at this meeting. The HSCP and partners would be consulting on this over the coming months.

(b) **Environment Department – Roads Service**

Councillor Lafferty paid tribute to the staff in the Roads service for all their endeavours in keeping the Council's roads network clear of snow during the recent bad weather.

(c) **Education Department - Closure of Schools**

Councillor O'Kane echoed the comments of Councillors Bamforth and Lafferty and in addition paid tribute to the Director of Education and the Council's Head Teachers for making an early decision to close Council schools as a result of the recent bad weather.

The Council noted the statements.

PROVOST'S ENGAGEMENTS

322. The Council considered and noted a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of civic engagements attended and civic duties performed by Provost Fletcher since the previous meeting.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT MEMBER

323. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking a new member to serve on the Education Committee following the resignation of Councillor Aitken.

The Council agreed that Councillor McLean be appointed to the Education Committee as a replacement for Councillor Aitken.

FINANCIAL PLANNING 2018-24

324. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 9 February 2017 (Page 2212, Item 2381 refers), when it was agreed amongst other things to approve the Outline Revenue Financial Plan 2017-22, the Council considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, seeking approval of the updated Outline Revenue Financial Plan for 2018-24.

The report explained that in view of the significant demand pressures facing the Council over the current year and following 5 years it was essential that the Council's financial plans were updated regularly for consideration by the Council, indicating that this was in line with the Council's agreed financial policy of basing decisions on an assessment of medium to long-term needs and consequences.

The report explained that the revised Plan had taken account of the 2018-19 settlement and confirmed very significant pressures expected to continue for the next 6 years with the need to plan for a range of financial scenarios. Details of the financial, economic, legislative and demographic pressures, and the range of mitigating actions open to the Council to address the forecast annual spending gaps in the coming years were outlined in the report.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the increasing budget pressures anticipated in the next 5 years and the mitigating actions proposed; and
- (b) approved the Outline Revenue Financial Plan 2018-24.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL REVENUE ESTIMATES 2018-19

325. The Council considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, together with the proposed Revenue Estimates for 2018/19 of income and expenditure as the basis for the Council Tax declaration for 2018/19. A copy of the Revenue Estimates 2018-19 was appended to the report.

The report outlined the revenue budget process, commented on the Scottish Government Grant Funding 2018/19 and explained that in determining the grant distribution the Scottish Government had again put in place the “Floors” arrangement to ensure year-on-year stability in grant at individual Council level. It was noted that under this arrangement the Council would contribute £1.077 million by way of deduction from Aggregate External Finance (AEF) grants in 2018/19. Details of this contribution had been reflected in the figures outlined in the report.

Having provided information in relation to Non-Domestic Rates income, the report referred to the Council’s financial outlook and to the practice in recent years of setting multi-year budgets, highlighting that despite the Council’s grant only having been confirmed for 2018/19, it was proposed to continue with recent practice and agree budget plans for 2018/19 and indicative budgets for 2019/20 and 20/20/21 as part of the Council’s good practice approach to longer-term financial planning. Whilst noting that taking account of the 2018/19 settlement announcement and updated expenditure information, the report advised that there would be a budget shortfall of £6.397 million for the coming year and that the total expected shortfall the Council would be required to close over the period 2018/21 was £28.581million.

The report explained that in the budget consultation exercise, it had been proposed that a 3% increase in Council Tax be agreed for 2018/19 and the subsequent two years to assist in addressing the financial challenges facing the Council. This would increase income by £1.567million per year and that after application of the above Council Tax increase, a budget shortfall of £4.830million remained for 2018/19 with an overall 3-year shortfall of £23.677million.

Furthermore, the report highlighted that as the Council’s unallocated General Reserve of £9million was currently at the top end of the accepted prudent range of 2-4%, it was proposed to apply £1.5million of these funds in each of the next three years to ease the introduction of the savings and to invest in services that would strengthen the Council for future challenges. Due to the healthy level of reserves built up through the Council’s long-term financial planning, this could be accommodated without reducing the unallocated General Reserve balance below 2% of net expenditure.

Details of the budget savings proposals were also outlined in the report. It was noted that of the budget shortfall of £4.830million for 2018/19, it was proposed that £4.382million of the savings consulted on during the Council’s three year budget consultation were applied to reduce this shortfall. Furthermore, it was proposed that £0.448million of the 2018/19 savings proposals be deferred on a short term basis by a drawdown from reserve funds. A similar

approach was also proposed for the following two years and this would permit time to phase savings in gradually and reduce the impact on services for as long as possible.

Whilst noting the list of savings which had been consulted upon and had been reduced or had not been included in the three year budget, the report provided details of reserves and balances, particular reference being made to a number of funds including the General, Modernisation, Insurance, Equalisation and Repairs and Renewals Funds and the Capital Reserve.

The report concluded by indicating that the revenue estimates which were appended to the report were based on a Band D Council Tax level of £1,194.57 being set for 2018/19 representing a 3% increase when compared to the current year's level.

Councillor Buchanan, Leader of the Council, was then heard on the proposals. By way of introduction, he highlighted that the financial pressures being faced by councils across Scotland were significant although the budget which was being proposed would outline the steps the Council was taking to protect services most valued by Council residents and importantly would protect jobs.

Whilst highlighting the demographic pressures being faced in East Renfrewshire such as the growing elderly and younger populations which placed a high demand on both schools and social care services, Councillor Buchanan also stated that other pressures including new legislation in relation to recycling targets; Landfill Tax; and the significant impact of Welfare Reform also needed to be considered when planning how best to deliver Council services in the future.

Thanking his Administration colleagues, staff in the Accountancy section and the Council's Corporate Management Team for their dedicated work in bringing forward the budget which would continue to deliver the Council's ambitious programme of capital investment whilst directing resources to those residents who needed them most, Councillor Buchanan also acknowledged the work of the Council's Trade Union partners, who had provided both written and verbal submissions in respect of their concerns.

Turning to the Council's grant settlement for 2018/19, Councillor Buchanan stated that the final settlement was anticipated to be almost £179million which was slightly higher than the Council had originally forecast for 2018/19. He indicated that the settlement also included additional funding as part of the Barrhead High School new build project, money for an increase to teachers' pay, as well as investment to support changes to the way the Council delivered health and social care including changes as part of the Carers Act, such as increased payment for sleepovers and supporting the Living Wage. He further stated that with additional funding to support the expansion of Early Years still to be provided by the Scottish Government, there was still the potential for the settlement figure to increase. However, it was noted that in cash terms this was a like for like settlement compared to previous years. He emphasised that the additional pressures on the Council's budget such as pay rises, inflation and population growth needed to be factored into the Council's planning and meant that savings were still required.

Whilst referring to the grant settlement projections for 2018/21 and to the 7-week consultation process that started in October 2017 as part of which the Council had put forward around £28million worth of savings options to give some flexibility and to enable it to be guided by the responses to the consultation, Councillor Buchanan explained that since the conclusion of the public consultation, the latest savings estimate had been reduced to less than £24million. This meant that the Council was now able to remove more than £4million worth of the most difficult proposals which had been put forward.

Councillor Buchanan also highlighted that when setting the Council's savings proposals, all financial estimates had been based on increasing Council Tax by 3% in each of the next 3 years. He indicated that it was recognised that this increase would add an additional burden to Council residents. However he further indicated that without generating this additional income, major reductions in funding for Council schools, public infrastructure including roads, local environment such as parks, and cleansing services would be required, together with large scale reductions in social care budgets. He emphasised that the Council Tax in East Renfrewshire remained below the national average and the proposed increase was an option which was supported by 61% of the residents who had taken part in the Council's budget consultation process.

Commenting on the challenges in setting the budget and having reiterated that the Council still had a £24million savings gap to address in the coming 3 years and that it wanted to reduce this as much as possible in order to reduce the impact on residents and staff, Councillor Buchanan stated that due to the Council's sound long-term financial planning it currently had a healthy level of reserves at around £9million. By using some reserves in each of the next 3 years this would reduce the gap to just over £22million, and also maintain the Council reserves at above the minimum level recommended by the Council's Auditors. He also emphasised that the Council's 3-year plan was based on the Council's actual budget for Year 1 and prudent estimates for the following two years during which time the Council would hope to see improvements to funding levels to local authorities.

Councillor Buchanan then outlined the savings options which had been removed. He highlighted that a reduction of around £5million had been originally been proposed to the funding devolved to Head Teachers. However, he indicated that the proposals now reduced this amount to just £0.5million over the next 3 years, helping to protect the quality of education provided in all the Council's schools. In addition, the roads maintenance budget was currently £4million per year and it was proposed to retain it at that level and not implement the proposed reduction of £400,000, as the consultation had identified the condition of roads as one of the most important issues for residents.

Whilst noting the reduction in savings levels from the Council's employability services and housing support provided to vulnerable residents, Councillor Buchanan also referred to the proposed reduced savings requirement from the Property and Technical Services section, emphasising that this would be crucial as the Council took forward the expansion of its Early Years provision and would also support ongoing work to ensure that all Council buildings met required standards. He also indicated that it had originally been proposed to reduce the working hours of the Council's valued community warden service to day time only. However, it was now proposed to retain the valued late night service on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The requirement for savings within Community and Support Services which included Community Safety, Equalities, Learning and Development, ICT and others had also been reduced by £485,000. Furthermore, he stated that as the Council continued to focus on the most vulnerable groups within society, it had also been able to reduce by £1.8million the savings target required to be met by the Health and Social Care Partnership.

Councillor Buchanan then outlined details of the savings challenge faced in preparing the budget and commented on the investment that would be made to Council services in the future. He indicated that the Council would be making a series of investments during 2018/19, totalling more than £1million to support lasting improvements across Council services. He referred to the already significant commitment to improving the digital infrastructure in schools and that it was proposed to invest £250,000 in the provision of additional tablets and laptops which would provide the opportunity to build on the Council's already successful 'Bring your Own Device' policy in schools. He also indicated that it was proposed to make additional funding of £150,000 available in the coming financial year for the Council's well established mixed tenure scheme which tackled some of the problems

associated with communal repairs and the need for improvements in estates where there was a mix of occupancy. He also highlighted that during the previous year's budget a Reading Recovery Scheme had been introduced in primary schools which provided further early intervention for pupils who were having difficulty with reading. It was now proposed to commit £62,000 to this extremely beneficial project which would allow it to continue for another year.

Reference was also made to the Council's new Local Outcome Improvement Plan as part of which the Council had two specific locality plans in place. These were targeted at supporting Council communities with the greatest need. He indicated that by investing a further £134,000 into this area it would help the Council to extend this work and also support additional participatory budgeting processes. Furthermore, the Council would also be investing £25,000 to support scrutiny work within the Council as it aimed to build on the recommendations outlined in the Best Value Audit Report by Audit Scotland.

Whilst noting the Council's commitment to delivering the very best for East Renfrewshire, Councillor Buchanan stated that the Council would continue through its ambitious plan for delivering on the Scottish Government's requirement to increase the level of free early learning and childcare provision by August 2020. He indicated that the Council's plan would see a number of new nursery facilities created, as well as more than 200 jobs. In addition, the Council would create much needed additional nursery places, as well as offering increased flexibility for parents.

Details of capital investment proposed by the Council were then outlined by Councillor Buchanan. He referred to investment of around £183million in ambitious capital schemes between 2018 and 2026. These schemes would drive growth, support the delivery of new schools, the delivery of Early Years establishments to help deliver the Scottish Government requirement to increase levels of Early Years care, ensure that the Council's Glasgow City Region City Deal plans such as a new train station for Barrhead South and the further development of the Dams to Darnley Country Park were delivered and would create new opportunities, as well as delivering benefits for the area. Furthermore, he indicated that the Council also had almost £11million in place for roads improvement projects, a significant investment to improve the network across the area.

It was noted that the Council's proposed Capital Plan being considered later at the meeting included around £26million for the potential to develop a new leisure centre within the Eastwood area. The consultation on the options for future leisure provision would begin soon and by building this capacity into the Capital Plan it ensured that the Council was well prepared to deliver on whichever option was preferred by Council residents. He indicated that the Council was also proposing that the Capital Plan would be reviewed in 6 months' time when the Council had certainty over additional Scottish Government funding and when the consultation into future leisure provision was concluded.

Councillor Buchanan indicated that the 3-year budget which was being presented had undoubtedly presented the Council with some of the toughest budget decisions it had been faced with in recent years. However, he emphasised that by using a range of measures the Council had still delivered a budget which addressed its savings gap and protected front line services and jobs as far as possible. Noting that when the Council initially consulted on its proposals it had been estimated that the number of jobs in the Council would reduce by around 300 over the next three years, Councillor Buchanan highlighted that the proposals now put forward for consideration saw this figure reduce by around 45. Furthermore, the reductions would be further offset by the creation of more than 200 Early Years support roles. This highlighted the Council's commitment to protecting staff, with any reductions being managed through natural turnover and no compulsory redundancies being required in the coming year.

Concluding his remarks, Councillor Buchanan stated that the Council had listened to its residents and amended savings proposals to reflect their feedback as it tried to minimise the impact of the changes which required to be made in the way in which it delivered services. Stating that the proposed significant capital investment in the coming years would continue to ensure that East Renfrewshire was a great place to live in, work in and visit, he reiterated his thanks to all those who had been involved in the budget process and moved that the Council:-

- (a) approve the 2018/19 Revenue Estimates;
- (b) approve the indicative Revenue Estimates for 2019/20 and 2020/21;
- (c) approve the recommended level and utilisation of reserves;
- (d) determine the 2018/19 Council Tax Band D at £1,194.57; and
- (e) note that management of the Council's finances and service plans would continue to be undertaken on a longer term basis.

Seconding the motion, Councillor O'Kane echoed Councillor Buchanan's earlier remarks in relation to the fact that the Administration had worked extremely hard to deliver a budget which provided long-term financial stability for the Council against a backdrop of financial uncertainty and ongoing reductions to Local Government funding. He emphasised that the Council had also been proactive in consulting with its residents and partners on the potential savings required over the next 3 years. He also emphasised that the budget presented had removed some of the most challenging savings proposals which had been put forward. In particular, he was pleased that £4.5million had been removed from the proposed £5million reductions to devolved school budgets as this should ensure that there would be no detriment to the high quality teaching and learning in the Council's schools and maintain their position as amongst the best in the country. Furthermore, the reduction of proposed savings to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) budget and the removal of savings to the roads budget would also mean continued support for the Council's eldest and most vulnerable residents and a continuous improvement agenda in relation to roads.

Whilst recognising that the increase in Council Tax would impact on residents, Councillor O'Kane stated that without this additional income drastic reductions in services right across the board would have been necessary. He highlighted that the Council was committed to continuing to deliver a range of high quality services and that by raising the Council Tax it would allow the Council to make the necessary investments in services. He also welcomed the proposals for more than £1million of investments for the coming year which would make a real difference to residents' lives immediately, citing as an example the continuation of the Reading Recovery Scheme which would ensure that the Council continued to develop all of the Council's young people from the earliest stage to ensure their learning journey was positive from the outset especially those who were in the lowest 20% of attainment levels. He also emphasised that over the coming years the Council would continue to modernise services to make them more cost effective and that by driving up efficiencies at every opportunity and harnessing the power of new technology the Council would continue to improve across all its services.

Noting the current and future impact of technology on the lives of residents, particularly young people, Councillor O'Kane was pleased that the budget built on its previous investment in technologies for schools such as the provision of more tablets, laptops and cutting edge technology such as virtual reality headsets. Such investment linked to the Council's 'Bring Your Own Device' policy, where children and young people in secondary and the senior phase of primary schools learned at appropriate points in the curriculum using their own device (i.e. tablet or laptop) or school provided devices.

The proposed additional investment in this policy continued to ensure that all children and young people had access to a device to enhance their learning. Furthermore, it ensured only registered devices were used on the Council's secure network and the Council taught its young people about reasonable use and staying safe online.

Concluding his remarks, Councillor O'Kane highlighted the Council's ambitious programme of capital investment worth more than £183million over the next 8 years which would see a range of infrastructure projects. He emphasised that the Council was investing wisely for the future of the services which mattered most to its residents and that the proposed budget ensured greater stability in future years and was one which would protect jobs and services.

Thereafter, Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Swift, moved as an amendment that the estimates be approved, subject to the details as set out in Appendix 1 accompanying this Minute.

Councillor Miller began by thanking by thanking the Council's Corporate Management Team and all the staff who had provided advice and support to him in the preparation of the Conservative Group amendment, particularly the Head of Accountancy and her staff. He was then heard in further explanation of the savings outlined in the amendment. Referring firstly to proposals put forward by the Administration, he stated that it was encouraging to see that they had taken on board suggestions made by the Conservative Group in the past to reduce the temperature in schools and to reduce the hours of Community Wardens. Furthermore, he indicated that he was pleased to see that the Administration had decided to sell advertising space on Council vehicles and buildings; something the Conservative Group had urged for a number of years. He highlighted that the Conservative Group not only agreed with advertising and commercialisation of buildings and vehicles but also thought the Council should be much more ambitious and referred to the potential revenue which could be generated over the next 3 years as detailed in the amendment.

Commenting on the proposed school meal price increases as part of the Administration budget proposals, Councillor Miller stated that whilst this was supported by his group their view was that the price paid should closer reflect the cost price. As a result, he indicated that the Conservative Group believed the price of these meals should rise by 20p in 2018/19 and 10p the following year which would still leave a small subsidy on school meals. He emphasised that the details of the Conservative Group's amendment also reflected that there might be some dissatisfaction and acknowledged that it may be difficult for some parents who had two or three children at school. However, he was of the view it still represented excellent value for money.

Councillor Miller then referred to the ongoing concerns expressed by Councillor Ireland and others about posters on the railings at Netherlee Park and Williamwood Golf Club. He expressed surprise that the Council did not have the power to address the problem of businesses using the Council's street furniture and railings etc for commercial gain and that the Conservative Group amendments included proposals for the Council to introduce a byelaw and introduce charging for the use of street furniture which the Conservative Group considered could bring in a modest sum and it would also give the Council some control over what could adorn its street furniture.

Councillor Miller also proposed savings by a reduction in the paid time off given to employees who also acted as union officials, stating that he found it very hard to justify this expenditure when local residents were bitterly complaining about a Council Tax increase.

Councillor Miller also highlighted that the Conservative Group were proposing to save more money on Early Years technology funding by purchasing less expensive equivalent equipment for youngsters in nurseries and primary schools as in his opinion the Council did

not need to purchase state of the art equipment. He also suggested that there was some overlap between the work of the Council's Money Advice and Rights Team and Citizens Advice with some scope for savings to be made and with some of the savings being passed to Citizens Advice and the Council saving the remainder.

Referring to the problem of road maintenance which was a consistent source of complaint, Councillor Miller stated that the Conservative Group was proposing to use most of the above savings, which totalled over £4.5million, to invest in road repairs. Again the Conservative Group were proposing to go even further and borrow another £5.5million to try and bring the Council's roads network up to a standard that would take East Renfrewshire roads into the top half of the national league table. He referred to the terms of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA3) which stated that "East Renfrewshire is a thriving, attractive and sustainable place for residents and businesses to grow" and stated that this could not happen with a crumbling road network and that businesses with all their inward investment would go elsewhere.

Councillor Miller highlighted that the Council was in the process of building a new road (Balgraystone Road), which in his opinion was not needed, and was re-scheduling by two years the realignment of Aurs Road, a road that was well used and was needed. He stated that in his opinion, building a new road when insufficient funding was provided to maintain the existing network was inappropriate. He stated that the Conservative Group proposed to inject £7million into the roads budget in Year 1 followed by £1.5million extra in Years 2 and 3. Acknowledging that some might consider the increase in borrowing imprudent, he stated that his group's view was that refurbishment of the existing leisure centre in Eastwood Park rather than a proposed new build would be more appropriate because most of the customers who used the current facility stayed in Giffnock and Thornliebank and had all the benefits of a road network and car parking already provided. If the Council followed this course of action the estimated cost of the project would be £11million and that would leave a reduced borrowing burden of £19million and that was £13.9million less borrowing as detailed in the Conservative Group proposals.

Concluding his remarks, Councillor Miller expressed his thanks to all those who had helped the Conservative Group prepare its amendment and commended the terms of the amendment to the Council.

Councillor Swift, in seconding the amendment, stated that whilst acknowledging that the Council should prioritise services in Education and Social Care, such resourcing in the long term was not sustainable. He welcomed the proposal to empower Head Teachers in Education associated with the devolved school management and the self-directed support initiative in social care. He also highlighted that the Conservative Group's amendment reflected less bureaucracy and emphasised the need to invest in the Council's road network.

Councillor Aitken moved as a further amendment that the Administration's proposals be approved, subject to the removal of proposed savings of £138,000 associated with instrumental music redesign over the next three years. He stated that in his opinion, the provision of music within the Council's schools was one of East Renfrewshire's jewels in the crown. He cited a range of achievements by Council pupils in terms of their representation in the National Youth Orchestra both at junior and senior level. He also commented that the Council charged in excess of £300 for tuition fees whereas two of the Council's neighbouring authorities that did not charge for such tuition. He proposed that the Council should reconsider this savings proposal. In the absence of a seconder, Councillor Aitken's further amendment fell.

Thereafter, a full discussion on the proposals followed.

Councillor Grant sought clarification on the “floors” arrangement and whether representations had been made by the Council to COSLA given that she understood the arrangement was to operate on a temporary basis.

Councillor Lafferty questioned how the Conservative Group’s amendment would increase revenue in the course of which he expressed the view that the proposal to display advertisement posters at roundabouts as a means of generating revenue would be dangerous as they would create a distraction for motorists. He also suggested that the proposal to make savings in the Council’s Media Services section was a retrograde step emphasising the importance of having good communication channels. He also expressed concern about the Conservative Group’s proposal to reduce the facility time for officers involved in trade union duties. He stated that the Council enjoyed good relationships with its workforce and in his opinion such a proposal would be a retrograde step. He also commented on the increased savings for Head Teachers and Social Care highlighting that the outcome of the budget consultation indicated that residents did not want to see further savings in Education and similarly savings in Social Care should also be avoided.

Councillor Ireland stated that she did not support the Conservative Group’s proposals to generate revenue by charging a fee for those wishing to display adverts on the Council’s street furniture highlighting that the Council was attempting to reduce the number of adverts/posters that were being displayed rather than increasing them. She also highlighted that she did not support either the increase in savings from Head Teachers or the proposals for the savings associated with the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Bamforth stated that she was surprised at the Conservative Group’s proposals in relation to increased savings associated with health and social care highlighting that the Health and Social Care Partnership was attempting to keep people at home. She also responded to the comments made by Councillors Miller and Swift regarding the condition of the Council’s roads in the course of which she highlighted that in terms of the Council’s performance in relation to the maintenance of its main roads and that out of 32 authorities in Scotland only one other authority had performed better than the Council in this category.

Councillor Merrick emphasised that the budget proposed reflected the views of Council residents in response to the budget consultation and commented that in response to Councillor Aitken’s remarks about the budget savings associated with music tuition, highlighted that these were not being made immediately as they were earmarked for Years 2 and 3 of the budget.

In response to Councillor Grant’s comments about the “floors” arrangement, Councillor Buchanan highlighted that he had raised this matter with Scottish Ministers and that it was also a subject of regular discussions at meetings of COSLA. He emphasised that the “floors” arrangement was part of the overall grant funding arrangements. He then responded to the terms of the Conservative Group’s amendment in the course of which he stated that in his opinion the proposals lacked clarity. He expressed concern that the proposals would penalise those who relied most on the services provided by the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership and ultimately they would impact on staff and result in job losses. Concluding his remarks, he stated that the proposals outlined in the Conservative Group’s amendment did not support the services the Council provided and would in effect punish staff. He commended the budget to the Council.

Thereafter on a vote being taken, 10 Members voted for the motion and 6 Members voted for the amendment. The motion was accordingly declared carried and it was agreed to:-

- (a) approved the 2018/19 Revenue Estimates;
- (b) approve the indicative Revenue Estimates for 2019/20 and 2020/21;
- (c) approve the recommended level and utilisation of reserves;
- (d) determine the 2018/19 Council Tax Band D at £1,194.57; and
- (e) note that management of the Council's finances and service plans would continue to be undertaken on a longer term basis.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2018-23

326. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 9 February 2017 (Page 2220, Item 2384 refers) when it was agreed that the proposed Capital Investment Strategy be approved, the Council considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval of the updated Capital Investment Strategy for the period 2018-23. A copy of the revised strategy was appended to the report.

Whilst noting that the strategy was intended to cover the 5 years from 2018-19, the main aim of which was to build upon the success of works already achieved, the report explained that in particular it would enable the Council to make rational capital investment decisions linked to the achievement of its strategic aims, objectives and future service needs; provided a framework for determining the relative importance/priority of individual capital projects by requiring an objective and detailed evaluation of them; and clearly linked the investment priorities to the Council's Asset Management Plans for Property, Fleet, ICT, Open Space, and Roads, lighting and water structures. These asset management plans were regularly reviewed.

The Council approved the updated Capital Investment Strategy.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PLAN 2018/19 – 2025-26

327. The Council considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, seeking approval of the General Fund Capital Plan covering the eight years from 2018/19 to 2025/26. A copy of the Plan, prepared in line with the approach within the Capital Investment Strategy, accompanied the report.

Councillor Buchanan explained that the Council was experiencing a period of significant financial constraints, and stated that the proposed Plan continued to deliver very significant levels of capital investment which would make a major contribution to the Council's strategic objectives. The plans would require a significant increase in borrowing and the utilisation of a large element of the Council's Capital Reserves. However this was regarded as both affordable and sustainable.

Councillor Buchanan also indicated that two areas where the Plan would require review in the course of the year as updated information became available would be in relation to any additional Early Learning and Child Care funding provided by the Scottish Government, and the proposals in relation to leisure facilities in the Eastwood side of the authority which would depend on the responses received to the consultation exercise.

Concluding his remarks, Councillor Buchanan seconded by Councillor O’Kane moved that the Council:-

- (a) approve programme for 2018/19 and authorise officers to progress the projects contained therein; and
- (b) agree to revise the plan during the year in light of updated information relating to leisure facilities and early learning and child care developments.

Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Swift, moved an amendment as set out in Appendix 2 accompanying this Minute.

Councillor Swift stated that he did not support the proposal to build a new leisure centre at another location within East Renfrewshire, particularly given that £26million had been earmarked for the project. He stated that the residents who used the existing facility at Eastwood Leisure Centre did so due to its location and in his opinion those same individuals would be unlikely to travel to another location to use any new facility on a different site. He expressed the view that East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust was not working and that he did not think it was appropriate to give the Trust the responsibility of operating a new facility. He also suggested that the revenue targets associated with new build proposals could not be justified and stated that as the Council’s roads network was in such a terrible condition, he supported Councillor Miller’s earlier comments to upgrade the existing leisure centre as this would free up additional money to invest in the Council’s roads network.

In response to the comments about the proposal to build a new Eastwood Leisure Centre, Councillor Merrick emphasised that the project was subject to consultation and once the outcome of the consultation exercise was known the Council would make a decision on what option to pursue.

Councillor Wallace was heard in support of the comments made by Councillors Miller and Swift and stated that in his opinion, the Eastwood Leisure Centre should remain in its current location. He emphasised that the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust were competing with the private sector in terms of attracting business and that it was his understanding that service users wanted the facility to stay where it was.

Councillor Lafferty suggested that the Council should await the outcome of the consultation exercise before making a decision about the future of the facility. He also replied to the comments made about the condition of the Council’s roads network in the course of which he highlighted that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet which would provide details of further investment to the roads network. Concluding his remarks, he indicated that the Council would need to invest a sum of approximately £25million to bring the Council’s roads network up to a good condition.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Miller about the delay to the Aurs Road realignment which formed part of the Dams to Darnley project, Councillor Buchanan stated that this was due to delays in the City Deal and the fact that additional works were required as part of the project. In view of this, the project would require to be re-tendered. He also responded to the comments made in relation to Eastwood Leisure Centre reiterating the earlier remarks that the Council was consulting on proposals and the cost to the Council of either upgrading the existing leisure centre or building a new facility. He stated that a number of options had been put forward and the Plan could be revised once the consultation had taken place and the Council had agreed a way forward.

Thereafter, on a vote being taken, 11 Members voted for the motion and 6 Members voted for the amendment. The motion was accordingly declared carried and the Council:-

- (a) approved the programme for 2018/19 and authorised officers to progress the projects detailed therein Plan; and
- (b) agreed to revise the Plan during the year in the light of updated information relating to leisure facilities and early learning and child care developments.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – RENT SETTING 2018/19 AND 2019/20

328. The Council considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval of the Housing Revenue Account for 2018/19 and associated rent levels for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The report proposed that Council house rents should increase by 3.9% each year with effect from April 2018 and April 2019 and noted that this increase would also apply to all lock ups and garage sites held on the Housing Revenue Account. Whilst noting that the proposal of 3.9% in each of the next two years would ensure that the income from rents was at a level which was sufficient to meet the statutory requirements of the service, the report indicated that it would also allow the Council to continue to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) and improving energy efficiency required by the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH). Furthermore, the increase would also allow the Council to address the emerging local priorities of its tenants.

The Council approved a 3.9% rent increase with effect from April 2018 and that a further increase of 3.9% be applied in April 2019.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 – 2022/23

329. The Council considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval for the proposed 5-year Housing Capital Programme from 2018/19 to 2022/23.

The report provided details of the key areas that the Capital Programme would focus on for the next 5 years. These were noted as an investment of nearly £4.5m in central heating; investment of £1.8m in electrical works, primarily property and common close re-wiring and upgrading of smoke detectors; investment of more than £10m primarily targeted at continuing the Council's programme of roof and render renewal; investment of £4m in installing new internal elements including kitchens, bathrooms, windows and doors and investment of £1.6m in sheltered housing. Furthermore, the Council would invest the sum of £30 million in new Council house building.

The report further advised that the high levels of investment contained within the programme were essential to allow the Council to continue to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) to meet the future requirements of the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH) and to provide homes that met the needs and aspirations of existing and prospective tenants.

Furthermore, it was noted that the continued investment was affordable and would be welcomed by Council tenants who would see the quality of their homes continue to be improved. However, it was noted that resources were tight and prudent financial management was required.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the proposed 2018/19 to 2022/23 Housing Capital Programme; and
- (b) authorised the Director of Environment to progress the projects contained within the 2018/19 programme, and to commence preparations for future years up to, but not including, legal commitment of resources until future budgets had been approved.

PROTOCOL FOR COUNCILLOR/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

330. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval of a local protocol for Councillor/employee relations to supplement the protocol contained in the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

The report explained that by its nature, the protocol for Councillor/employee relations annexed to the Councillors' Code of Conduct did not deal with processes and procedures at an individual Council level. As a result, the report proposed the introduction of a local protocol which provided more local context which in turn would assist councillors to more fully understand their roles and responsibilities within the Council, particularly in respect of the relationships between councillors and employees.

The Council approved the East Renfrewshire Council Protocol for Councillor/Employee Relations.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE HSCP INTEGRATION SCHEME – AMENDMENT

331. The Council considered a report by the Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership, seeking approval for an amendment of the East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Scheme required in light of recent amendments to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Act Regulations.

The report advised that the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and East Renfrewshire Council were undertaking a process to update the integration scheme for East Renfrewshire, as required by recent amendments to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Act Regulations.

Whilst noting that the updates were minor changes to the schedules of delegated functions to support the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act, the report advised that once the updated integration scheme was approved by the Scottish Government, the Integration Joint Board would have delegated responsibilities for the implementation of carers legislation.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the amendments to the East Renfrewshire HSCP Integration Scheme;
- (b) authorised the submission of the amended scheme to Scottish Ministers for approval; and
- (c) authorised that delegated powers be granted to the Deputy Chief Executive to amend the Council's Scheme of Delegated Functions once the amended integration scheme had been approved by Scottish Ministers.

SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION – AMENDMENTS

332. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval for changes to the Council's Scheme of Administration. A copy of the amended Scheme of Administration was appended to the report.

The Council approved the amended Scheme of Administration.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

333. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval for the appointment of a new Licensee Member to the East Renfrewshire Local Licensing Forum.

The Council approved the appointment of Mr Bhart to the East Renfrewshire Local Licensing Forum.

PROVOST

CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT PROPOSALS

	18/19	19/20	20/21	Totals
Increased revenue from Advertising/Commercialisation	33	172	341	546
School meals (which we will continue to subsidise)	180	90		270
New Bye law to reduce nuisance posters			50	50
Reduce PR function/monitoring of social media		60		60
Trade Union taxpayers subsidy	60			60
Sharing of HR resources and admin		312	437	749
Reflecting better absence rates	83	164	213	460
Increased savings from IJB	125	250	250	625
Increased savings from Head teachers	250	500	250	1000
Participatory budgeting (Digital Option)	134			134
Early Years tech funding	250			250
Increased saving from Community and Support (Backroom)	100	200	100	400
Employability Services	132			132
Review of non-landlord funding	76			76
Improved efficiency CAB and Rights advice	500			500
Total Annual Savings	1847	1824	1641	5312
Roads Loan Repayments	1617	1697	1482	4796
Annual Surplus	230	127	159	516

CONSERVATIVE CAPITAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Total	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Roads	£5,500							
Culture & Leisure Trust		-£3,000	-£10,000	-£2,000	£0	£0	£0	£0
Changes in spending	£5,500	-£3,000	-£10,000	-£2,000	£0	£0	£0	£0
Running changes	£5,500	£2,500	-£7,500	-£9,500	-£9,500	-£9,500	-£9,500	-£9,500

MINUTE
of
AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 8 March 2018.

Present:

Councillor Stewart Miller (Chair)	Councillor Annette Ireland
Councillor Barbara Grant (Vice Chair)	Councillor David Macdonald
Provost Jim Fletcher	Councillor Jim Swift
Councillor Charlie Gilbert	

Councillor Miller in the Chair

Attending:

Louise Pringle, Head of Business Change and Revenues; Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant; Michelle Blair, Chief Auditor; Gill Darbyshire, Chief Executive's Business Manager; and Linda Hutchison, Clerk to the Committee;

Also Attending:

Elaine Barrowman and Morven Fraser, Audit Scotland.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

334. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

335. The following matter was raised during the Chair's report:-

Future Work

- (i) Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 25 January 2018 (Page 260, Item 293(v) refers), when it had been agreed that reports be sought on issues relating to the allocation of responsibilities to staff, adherence to related procedures and associated pay issues in East Renfrewshire Council in relation to the Glasgow City Region City Deal; and the current position on gritting and how the service might be delivered in future, Councillor Miller confirmed that reports on these issues were being prepared by the Head of Environment (Strategic Services) for submission to the committee on 19 April and 21 June respectively.

The committee agreed to note the report.

REVIEW OF STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRESS

336. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 28 September 2017 (Page 144, Item 155 refers), when the position on the Strategic Risk Register (SRR) and progress with risk management across the Council had been noted, the committee considered a report by the Chief Executive regarding the most recent biannual update of the Register and recent general progress on risk management.

The SRR, a copy of which was appended to the report, itemised key risks that required to be considered and associated actions put in place to manage these. Having referred to related operational risk registers in place, the report confirmed that several strategic risks had been amended to include additional control measures and rescored for significance, clarifying that a thorough review of all risks on the SRR had been undertaken by the Corporate Management Team (CMT). In total there were now 27 strategic risks, 9 of which were evaluated as high and 18 as medium. It was clarified that risks evaluated as low had been removed from the Register and would be monitored within departmental or operational registers as appropriate. Relevant significant risks which could impact on the achievement of the Council's outcomes relating to the work of the Integration Joint Board and the Culture and Leisure Trust had been considered as part of the update.

In addition to referring to risks that had been added to the register, information was provided on risk scores that remained high, had increased to medium or high or had been reduced to medium; and risks where the description had been amended. It was confirmed that reports on the SRR were submitted on a 6-monthly basis to the committee and annually to the Cabinet, but that the register was considered a live document and updated continually. It was clarified that the review of the SRR formed a fundamental role in ensuring that the Council met its objectives as detailed in Fairer East Ren, the Modern Ambitious Programme and the Outcome Delivery Plan and that a member of the CMT had been identified as the risk owner for each strategic risk.

Regarding general progress, it was explained that the Corporate Risk Management Group had met to review the risk management process to identify areas for improvement which had resulted in more emphasis on the discussion of risks at departmental management team meetings. Other issues commented on included the revised Risk Management Strategy approved by the Cabinet in November 2017.

Having heard the Business Manager highlight key aspects of the report, Councillor Swift referred to the strategic risk specified on the outcome of the EU referendum, expressing concern regarding the lack of similar reference to a risk linked to a potential further Scottish independence referendum, in respect of which he commented on various issues including the potential impact on trade, services and employment. In reply the Business Manager commented that no referendum date had been set, and that the CMT reviewed the SRR constantly and would amend the register if it was considered necessary.

Councillor Swift referred the possibility of raising a Motion regarding this in future. In reply Councillor Miller suggested that, at this stage, it would be more appropriate for the Business Manager to provide feedback to senior officers on comments made on the issue at this meeting. Thereafter, Councillor Ireland, supported by Councillor Macdonald and Councillor Grant who referred to the importance of taking account of the factual position and making a tangible comparison, suggested that if the risk was added to the SRR at some stage in future when considered appropriate, a direct comparison with the impact of the EU referendum would be useful. Councillor Swift expressed the view that a direct comparison could be made at the present time.

Provost Fletcher referred to the range of political views that existed on issues such as this and others, the corporate nature of the register, and difficulty associated with straying into political views in terms of the content of the SRR.

In response to a further issue raised by Provost Fletcher, reference was made to the mechanisms the Council had in place for whistleblowing, how such issues could be raised and were dealt with, and the value of publicising the arrangements periodically which had been done in the past and which it was planned to do again.

Referring to strategic risk 5.1 on the increase of older people in East Renfrewshire due to demographic trends, Councillor Grant referred to the on-going nature of the risk and associated challenges. Regarding risk 1.1 concerning the provision of Early Years places, including provision linked to the new early learning and childcare provision to be introduced, the Chief Accountant referred to related provision within the Capital Programme, in respect of which confirmation of grant was awaited, and related revenue implications which had been considered. It was clarified that implementation of the proposed risk control measures on this issue would result in the risk being reduced from high to medium, and that the Director of Education was scheduled to submit a report to the next meeting of the committee on the publication by Audit Scotland of its report *Early Learning and Childcare* and the associated position locally.

The committee:-

- (a) noted that the Chief Executive's Business Manager would provide feedback to appropriate officers on comments made by members of the committee at this meeting on the SRR; and
- (b) otherwise, noted the development of the SRR, that it was considered to be a live document, and that it would be updated and amended by the CMT as appropriate.

UPDATE ON INVOICE PAYMENTS IN EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

337. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 17 August 2017 (Page 86, Item 94 refers), when the committee had noted an update on the review and redesign of invoice processing within the Council, including actions taken and being taken to address audit and compliance issues, and agreed that a further update be submitted before the end of the 2017/18 financial year, the committee considered a report providing a further update on the review and redesign of invoice processing.

Having referred to the previous reports submitted to the committee and related discussions, including on the Council's position which had been in the lower quartile of national performance for the percentage of invoices paid within 30 days as reported on through regular performance updates, the report referred to the national performance indicator (PI) on such invoice payments, and related local concerns still held about the PI not being calculated on a like for like basis across local authorities. The report commented on the centralisation of invoices, providing statistics which reflected significant improvement on paying invoices within 30 days for the period 1 March to 31 December 2017, which figures remained subject to audit, compared to other areas. Reference was also made to routine management information now provided to departments.

Having referred to two key audit and compliance issues reported to the committee in August, reference was made to a range of measures implemented to ensure a critical focus

on control and accuracy, and the related internal audit report prepared on the invoice payments process and related management action plan, copies of both of which had been circulated in December to members of the committee. The report commented on the emphasis being placed on improvements but also accuracy and financial control, outlining various steps taken to deliver improvement and reduce error. Amongst other things reference was made to the AP Forensics system, which was now fully operational, and progress made on data cleansing, this issue having been commented on previously.

Comments were also provided on progress on a range of improvement projects. Having referred to good progress being made on the delivery of the audit action plan, the report explained that management was now able to divert critical resource back to the change programme in respect of which an update was provided.

The report concluded that having been amongst the lowest performing councils for the percentage of invoices paid within 30 days, within the last 2 years the position had shifted from some 50-60% of invoices being paid on that basis to an average of 80-90% for 2017/18 to date. It was reported that despite some key issues of audit and compliance reported on in 2017, the service had recovered well, that all high risk audit actions had been completed and that remaining actions were on track, with additional resource having been deployed to ensure compliance and staff having been reminded that financial control and accuracy were of paramount importance. Further stages of automation were now being progressed that would modernise the invoice payments process, reduce demand and minimise scope for manual intervention and error. Although this work had required to be slowed down slightly in recent months to allow critical audit actions to be progressed, it was now being reprogrammed for delivery in 2018/19.

The Head of Business Change and Revenues commenting on key aspects of the report including the significant progress made on payment of invoices timeously, the implementation of the internal audit report management action plan which was on track, checks introduced prior to payments being made, a reduction in errors and the operation and implementation of the AP Forensics system. She also referred to the recent appointment of a new manager within the section.

Councillor Grant, supported by Councillor Macdonald, welcomed the more positive nature of the report and progress made which it was hoped would be maintained. In reply to Councillor Macdonald, the Head of Business Change and Revenues and Chief Auditor explained how the AP Forensics system operated and flagged up issues of various types for further checking. Having heard the Chief Auditor comment that the system had not been used as it should have been, the Head of Business Change and Revenues referred to how this had been addressed and some retrospective checks regarding invoices carried out. Also in reply to Councillor Macdonald, reference was made to the reduction in invoice payment performance levels in 2015/16 and the associated lack of reliance placed on performance information at that time and related issues, including the possibility that actual performance could have been better than reported but that this could not be verified. Real improvement was considered to have been made since then.

Councillor Swift welcomed the improvements referred in the report, following which he referred to staff turnover within the section and related use of temporary staff and motivational and commitment issues, asking how it was being ensured that staff felt valued and were willing to do all that was asked of them. Whilst responding, the Head of Business Change and Revenues referred to the ongoing use of some temporary staff, but more stability within the section anticipated in the months ahead. Whilst referring to the vision for the section, she referred to frank discussions held with those working in it, improvements witnessed in error rates and accuracy following that and expertise within the section, adding

that some employees who had been in the section were no longer there. She confirmed that all those working in the section knew what their own error rate was. In reply to Councillor Macdonald, the Head of Business Change and Revenues clarified how work was selected for checking and referred to options that could be pursued in various circumstances to address poor performance as necessary, including through training.

The committee noted the improvements to performance, the steps towards implementing significant change and the progress made in addressing recent audit and compliance issues referred to in the report.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL – ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2017/18

338. The committee considered a report by the External Auditor regarding the 2017/18 Annual Audit Plan. The Plan provided an overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit to be carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), the Code of Audit Practice and other relevant guidance.

Based on discussions with staff, attendance at committee meetings and a review of supporting information, the report highlighted the main financial statement issues and risks and also risks of a wider dimensional nature identified for the Council, and audit work planned in relation to these. Various reports to be prepared, including the annual report on the audit, were referred to as were the audit fee and the responsibilities of the committee, Head of Accountancy and appointed Auditor. Having summarised the approach to be adopted on the audit of financial statements, it was clarified that an opinion on them would be given on a range of issues, including whether they gave a true and fair view and were properly prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and legislative requirements.

Other issues commented on included materiality levels; the annual assessment of the Internal Audit function that was nearing completion and would be the subject of a separate report; the reliance it was proposed to place on Internal Audit's work and related issues; and the four audit dimensions framing the wider scope of public sector audit requirements.

The report commented on the overall framework for the new approach to auditing Best Value agreed by the Accounts Commission in June 2016 and used for audit work since October that year. It was clarified that the new approach integrated Best Value into the wider scope annual audit, influencing audit planning and reporting, and with Best Value to be assessed comprehensively over each 5 year audit appointment through both ongoing audit work and discrete packages of work. Conclusions and judgements on Best Value were to be reported through various documents, including the Annual Audit Report for the Council.

Having referred to the Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) for East Renfrewshire published in 2017, it was clarified that audit work in this area in 2017/18 would reduce compared to 2016/17 and be limited to a follow-up of issues raised and in the BVAR action plan. The outcome would inform the External Auditor's Strategic Plan for 2018/19 and following years, progress on improvement and the pace of change during 2017/18 would be reported on, and the results would be reported in the Annual Audit Report.

Reference was made to Housing Benefit performance audits, including plans to carry out a performance audit of the housing benefits service in the Council as part of the 2017/18 audit, and consideration to be given to the local impact of various national audit reports published or to be published. Issues on independence and objectivity, quality control and adding value were also commented on.

Councillor Miller welcomed Ms Barrowman to the meeting, following which she referred to various key aspects of the report. Whilst itemising and commenting on the key audit risks identified which required specific audit testing on which an update would be provided in the Annual Audit Report, it was clarified that a number were not specific to East Renfrewshire. She also commented on the audit fee, the review of Internal Audit, the follow up work to be done on the BVAR report, and the forthcoming performance audit of the Council's housing benefits service. She thanked the Head of Accountancy and her staff for their assistance in preparing the 2017/18 Annual Audit Plan.

During discussion, in response to Councillor Macdonald, Ms Barrowman provided examples of some of the key requirements and implications of the General Data Protection Regulations coming into force on 25 May 2018.

The Committee noted the 2017/18 Annual Audit Plan and timetable for the publication of related documents, including the Annual Audit Report for 2017/18.

NATIONAL EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SCOTLAND – FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2016/17

339. The committee considered a report by the Clerk on the publication by Audit Scotland of a report entitled *Local Government in Scotland – Financial Overview 2016/17* which under the committee's specialisation arrangements had been sent to Provost Fletcher and Councillor Ireland for review. The Head of Accountancy had been asked to provide comments and a copy of her feedback was attached to the report.

The report advised Members on the Council's position relative to the findings, commenting on various income and budgetary matters, including demand pressures faced by the authority, the need for ambitious savings, service provision and related risks, and the focus placed by the Council both on its Modern Ambitious Programme of change and on preventative spend to reduce future budget pressures.

Others issues commented on included the need for and complexities associated with effective financial planning, including those linked to the late announcement of a change in Government grant funding, the intention to publish plans for a 3 year budget for the period 2018/2021, and capital expenditure related matters.

The report referred to a range of issues linked to the financial performance of the Council including that it had operated within budget for the year, the position on reserves, budget setting, previous underspends and related action taken, borrowing, and slippage within the Capital Programme. Reference was also made to financial planning, including the authority's Capital Investment Strategy and the importance of strong leadership and community engagement when taking difficult decisions. It was commented that the Council's recent consultation on its 3 year budget, including the introduction of its budget simulator, had been acknowledged as good practice.

Overall, the report reflected that the Council had been considered to be well placed in terms of addressing the main issues facing Scottish Councils in 2016/17, but would continue to face substantial financial challenges.

Councillor Swift referred to the level of debt associated with the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund Capital Programme and related revenue implications, adding that he had made the assumption that rent levels linked to the new local authority houses to be built would be higher than others and expressing concern regarding the affordability of additional

borrowing in the current financial climate faced. The Chief Accountant confirmed that the costs of proposed borrowing had been taken into account in terms of budget planning.

The committee noted the report.

CHAIR

MINUTE

of

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 14 March 2018.

Present:

Councillor Annette Ireland (Chair)
Councillor Paul Aitken
Councillor Angela Convery

Provost Jim Fletcher
Councillor Stewart Miller

Councillor Ireland in the Chair

Attending:

Sean McDaid, Principal Planner; and Ian Walker, Senior Planner, Development Management; Graham Shankland, Principal Business Intelligence Officer, Business Intelligence Team; and Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillors Betty Cunningham (Vice Chair) and Jim McLean.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

340. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

341. The committee considered reports by the Director of Environment, on applications for planning permission, including an application for planning permission that had been continued from the meeting of the committee on 14 February 2018.

The committee agreed that the applications be determined at Appendix 1 accompanying this Minute, particular reference being made to the following:-

- (i) 2017/0264/TP – Sub-division of feu and erection of detached dwellinghouse at rear with formation of access from Capelrig Road (planning permission in principle) at 8 The Laurels, Newton Mearns by Amanda Flynn

Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 14 February 2018 (Page 271, Item 305 refers) when it was agreed that consideration of the application be continued to allow a site visit to take place, the committee resumed consideration of the application.

Whilst expressing concerns about the application, Provost Fletcher stated that in his opinion, should the committee approve the application it would set a precedent and he also noted that the applicant's neighbours had objected to the proposal. Concluding his remarks, he indicated that he supported the recommendation to refuse the application.

Councillor Ireland commented that the site visit that had been carried out prior to the meeting had been helpful and that she agreed that the application was contrary to the policies outlined in the report and supported the recommendation to refuse the application.

At this stage, the committee agreed that the application be refused for the reasons detailed in the report.

- (i) 2014/0820/TP – Erection of six 76.5 metre high wind turbines (to hub height) and anemometer mast with formation of access tracks; erection of sub-station and control building and formation of 2 borrow pits at land east of Shieldhill Farm and west of Moor Road, Newton Mearns by Moorhouse Windfarm Limited

The Principal Planner advised that the applicant's agent had submitted a request for the application to be continued to allow time to enter into discussions with the National Air Traffic Service with a view to finding a mitigation solution to the commercial aviation issue raised by the service in its objection.

Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Aitken, moved that the committee should not accede to the agent's request for a continuation of the application.

Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Convery, moved as an amendment that consideration of the application be continued in accordance with the request made by the applicant's agent.

On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the motion and 2 Members voted for the amendment. The motion was accordingly declared carried and it was agreed that the committee give consideration to the application at the meeting.

At this stage, the Principal Planner outlined the terms of the proposal and indicated that following assessment of the application it was recommended that the committee refuse the application for the reasons detailed in the report.

In response to the concerns expressed in the report about the visual impact of the proposal, Councillor Miller highlighted that the existing wind turbines at the Whitelee Wind Farm were visible to motorists travelling north on the M77 motorway in the course of which the Principal Planner, whilst acknowledging this to be the case, emphasised that the proposed development would have a locally significant adverse visual impact on the surrounding area which would be beyond what was acceptable.

Councillor Ireland was concerned that the applicant had not addressed the issues raised by the National Air Traffic Service and the adverse visual impact the proposed development would have on the surrounding area.

The Principal Planner provided clarification about the problems the proposed wind turbines would cause to the navigational radar tracking of flights in the area highlighting that this was the reason why the National Air Traffic Service had objected to the proposal.

Provost Fletcher supported the concerns expressed by National Air Traffic Service and expressed concern about the adverse visual impact the proposal would have on the surrounding area.

Councillor Miller indicated that he was somewhat surprised that the recommendation was to refuse the application given that having read the assessment in the report he was of the view that the proposal appeared positive given the likely benefits that would arise from the proposed development.

In reply, the Principal Planner, whilst acknowledging the benefits the proposed development might bring, emphasised that having considered all the relevant matters of the application, it was considered that the adverse impacts outweighed any benefits that the proposal might bring.

At this stage, the committee agreed that the application be refused for the reasons detailed in the report.

- (iii) 2017/0374/TP – Formation and extension of hard rock quarry (consolidation of previous planning permissions)(major) at Floak, Ayr Road, Newton Mearns by Patersons of Greenoakhill Limited

The Principal Planner outlined the terms of the proposal and indicated that following the assessment of the application it was recommended that the application be approved, subject to conditions. He also advised that should the committee decide to approve the application it was proposed to amend the wording of Condition 2. Details of the amended wording were exhibited to the committee.

The committee agreed that the application be granted, subject to the following:-

- (a) the conditions detailed in the report; and
- (b) the wording of Condition 2 be amended as per Appendix 2 accompanying this Minute.

CHAIR

**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**

Index of applications under the above acts considered by Planning Applications Committee
on 14.03.2018

Reference No: 2017/0264/TP

Ward: 2

Applicant:

Amanda Flynn
8 The Laurels
Newton Mearns
East Renfrewshire
G77 6XR

Agent:

Alan Seath Planning Consultancy
Alan Seath
88 Scott Road
Glenrothes
KY6 1AE

Site: 8 The Laurels Newton Mearns East Renfrewshire G77 6XR

Description: Sub-division of feu and erection of detached dwellinghouse at rear with formation of access from Capelrig Road (planning permission in principle)

Decision: Refused

Reference No: 2014/0820/TP

Ward: 5

Applicant:

Moorhouse Windfarm Ltd
Baltic Chambers
50 Wellington Street
Suite 406 - 407
Glasgow
G2 6HJ

Agent:

Coriolis Energy Ltd
Ms Rosemary Chambers
Baltic Chambers
50 Wellington Street
Suite 406 - 407
Glasgow
G2 6HJ

Site: Land East Of Shieldhill Farm And West Of Moor Road Newton Mearns East Renfrewshire G77 6SQ

Description: Erection of six 76.5 metre high wind turbines (to hub height) and anemometer mast with formation of access tracks; erection of sub-station and control building and formation of two borrow pits

Decision: Refused

Reference No: 2017/0374/TP

Ward: 2

Applicant:

Patersons Of Greenoakhill Ltd
Gartsherrie Road
Coatbridge
ML5 2EU

Agent:

Johnson Poole And Bloomer
Richard Kenyon
50 Speirs Wharf
Glasgow
4 9TH

Site: Floak Ayr Road Newton Mearns East Renfrewshire G77 6SJ

Description: Formation and extension of hard rock quarry (consolidation of previous planning permissions) (major)

Decision: Approved Subject to Conditions

AMENDMENT TO WORDING OF CONDITION 2

Application Ref No:- 2017/0374/TP

Site:- Floak, Ayr Road, Newton Mearns, East Renfrewshire, G77 6SJ

Description: Formation and extension of hard rock quarry (consolidation of previous planning permissions) (major) by Patersons of Greenoakhill Ltd

CONDITION 2

Within three months from the date of this decision a bond or other financial instrument to cover all site restoration and aftercare liabilities imposed by this permission shall be submitted for the written approval of the Council as Planning Authority. Such bond or other financial instrument must, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Council as Planning Authority:

- i) be granted in favour of the Council as Planning Authority
- ii) be granted by a bank or other institution which is of sound financial standing and capable of fulfilling the obligations under the bond or other financial instrument;
- iii) be for a specified amount which covers the value of all site restoration and aftercare liabilities, as agreed between the operator and the Council as Planning Authority
- iv) either contain indexation provisions so that the specified amount of the bond or other financial instrument shall be increased on each anniversary of the date of this consent by the same percentage increase in the General Index of Retail Prices (All Items) exclusive of mortgage interest published by or on behalf of HM Government between the date hereof and such relevant anniversary or be reviewable to ensure that the specified amount of the bond or other financial instrument always covers the value of the site restoration and aftercare liabilities
- v) come into effect within six months of the date of this decision (unless a longer period is agreed in advance in writing by the Planning Authority), expire no earlier than 12 months after the end of the aftercare period and be available at all times to the Council as Planning Authority throughout this period. Suitable multiple bond or financial instrument arrangements may be acceptable provided that there is in place at all times throughout this period an acceptable bond or other financial instrument in terms acceptable to the Council as Planning Authority of sufficient value to ensure that restoration and aftercare liabilities are always provided for.
- vi) Within 3 months of the date of this decision, (or by another date to be approved in advance in writing by the Council as Planning Authority) the Operator shall submit to the Council as Planning Authority the initial bond or other financial instrument for the Council's approval. Within 3 months of the Council as Planning Authority confirming in writing that the

proposed initial bond or other financial instrument is satisfactory (or by another date to be approved in advance in writing by the Council as Planning Authority) there shall be delivered to the Council as Planning Authority the validly executed bond or other financial instrument.

vii) If no validly executed bond or other financial instrument in terms acceptable to the Council as Planning Authority is delivered to the Council within 6 months of the date of this decision, or by another date to be approved in advance in writing by the Council as Planning Authority, no operations will be carried out on site until a bond or financial instrument completed in accordance with the terms of this condition is lodged with the Council as Planning Authority.

viii) In the event that a bond or other financial instrument becomes invalid for any reason, no operations will be carried out on site until a bond or financial instrument completed in accordance with the terms of this condition is lodged with the Council as Planning Authority.

ix) At the end of each period of 4 years from the date of issue of the relevant bond or financial instrument , the Operator shall submit to the Council as Planning Authority an independent review of the bond by an independent company (the company to be approved in advance by the Council as Planning Authority) with expertise of restoration and aftercare of quarry sites with the costs of the said independent review being met by the Operator .The Council as Planning Authority may direct that the approved bond or financial instrument be amended in accordance with the conclusions of the independent review if this is necessary to ensure that funds remain sufficient for site restoration and aftercare.

Reason: To ensure that provision is made for the restoration and aftercare of the site.

MINUTE
of
LOCAL REVIEW BODY

Minute of Meeting held at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 14 March 2018.

Present:

Councillor Annette Ireland (Chair)
Councillor Paul Aitken
Councillor Angela Convery

Provost Jim Fletcher
Councillor Stewart Miller

Councillor Ireland in the Chair

Attending:

Graham Shankland, Principal Business Intelligence Officer (Planning Adviser); Siobhan Wilson, Solicitor (Legal Adviser); and Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer (Clerk).

Apologies:

Councillors Betty Cunningham (Vice Chair) and Jim McLean.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

342. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

NOTICE OF REVIEW – REVIEW 2017/27 – ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY REAR/SIDE EXTENSION AT 4 BALMEG AVENUE, GIFFNOCK (REF NO: 2017/0618/TP)

343. The Local Review Body considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, relative to a 'Notice of Review' submitted by Mr Steven Leach against the decision taken by officers to refuse planning permission in respect of the erection of a single storey rear/side extension at 4 Balmeg Avenue, Giffnock.

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.

In accordance with the decision taken at the meeting on 10 August 2016, the Local Review Body had carried out an unaccompanied site inspection of the application site immediately prior to the meeting.

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

Following discussion, it was agreed to uphold the decision of the Appointed Officer as set out in the decision notice of 23 October 2017 and refuse planning permission.

NOTICE OF REVIEW – REVIEW 2018/01 – ERECTION OF THREE STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION AT 122 MONTEITH DRIVE, CLARKSTON (REF NO: 2017/0804/TP)

344. The Local Review Body considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, relative to a 'Notice of Review' submitted by Ms Deirdre Ramanujam against the decision taken by officers to refuse planning permission in respect of the erection of a three storey side and rear extension at 122 Monteith Drive, Clarkston.

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.

In accordance with the decision taken at the meeting on 10 August 2016, the Local Review Body had carried out an unaccompanied site inspection of the application site immediately prior to the meeting.

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

Following discussion, it was agreed to uphold the decision of the Appointed Officer as set out in the decision notice of 6 February 2018 and refuse planning permission.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 15 March 2018.

Present:

Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)	Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Paul O’Kane (Deputy Leader)	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor Colm Merrick

Councillor Buchanan, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes; Deputy Chief Executive; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Louise Pringle, Head of Business Change and Revenues; Phil Daws, Head of Environment (Strategic Services); Sharon Beattie, Head of HR, Customer and Communications; Murray Husband, Head of ICT and Digital Enablement; Steven Skelly, Revenues and Business Support Manager; Michael McKernan, Business Development Team Leader; Sarah Jane Hayes, Operations Manager; and Paul O’Neil, Committee Services Officer.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

345. Councillor Buchanan declared a non-financial interest on the item in relation to the West of Scotland Loan Fund Limited on the grounds that he was a member of the Board of the West of Scotland Loan Fund Limited; and Councillors Devlin, Merrick and O’Kane declared a non-financial interest on the item on the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust – Financial Support on the grounds that they were members of the Board of the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust.

CORE CORPORATE SYSTEMS

346. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive, providing details of a significant change programme aimed at modernising the Council’s core corporate systems to drive process efficiencies, enable savings and facilitate improved performance and financial management and reporting. The report also sought approval to proceed to a further stage which would test the external market on scope to deliver better solutions for the Council’s core corporate systems.

The report explained that the primary goals of the programme was to improve or renew the Council’s Finance, Procurement, HR and Payroll solutions to support and drive cost savings and efficiencies by a range of means. Details of some of the key issues that the Council would face with its core corporate processes and systems were outlined in the report.

Whilst noting that to progress the matter further, a 'Corporate Systems Options Assessment and Business Case' had been prepared which provided details of three options for consideration, the report indicated that the options were as Option 1 - Continuous Improvement; Option 2 - Best of Breed with Integration and Option 3 - Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). A summary of each of the options was outlined in the report.

The report explained the implications of the proposal highlighting that the decision on how to move forward with such a complex programme of work was not a straightforward one and there were a number of risks attached. Of the three options considered, Option 1 - Continuous Improvement was considered not feasible. Furthermore, there was no clear winner at this stage between Options 2 and 3 – Best of Breed with Integration and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP).

In view of the foregoing, the report proposed that the Council should go out to the market with the Council's system requirements and a robust evaluation framework and test the responses to assess which option might be the best for the Council at the current time. It was noted that given the timings of the current contract expiry, the initial focus of the programme would be to tender for a new Finance/Procurement system. However, the tender would include scope for the award of a contract for HR/Payroll modules for later deployment, either as part of an ERP system or as a separate system which could be integrated with the Finance system.

The Cabinet agreed:-

- (a) to support the progression of the Core Corporate Systems of work;
- (b) to note the Core Corporate System Board's conclusion that Option 1, Continuous Improvement, was not feasible and there was no clear winner at this stage between Options 2 and 3 – Best of Breed with Integration and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP);
- (c) that the Council goes to market with a clear set of requirements with new Finance and Procurement systems as the initial focus and HR/Payroll following within a year, and assesses the resulting responses (ERP or Best of Breed included);
- (d) that services should begin putting in place the right conditions for change and implementation; adopting standard best practice processes and avoiding customisation;
- (e) that the programme should be suitably resourced, using internal resource where applicable but recognising the need to recruit externally for certain roles to build skills and capacity it being noted that funding would be through a mix of capital and the Modernisation Fund; and
- (f) to support the mitigation of the risks associated with the programme.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE CULTURE AND LEISURE TRUST – FINANCIAL SUPPORT

347. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, seeking homologation of the action taken in issuing a letter of comfort to the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust in view of the Trust's forecast overspend position at 31 March 2018.

The Cabinet homologated the action taken in issuing a letter of comfort to ERCLT in view of the Trust's forecast overspend position as at 31 March 2018.

SUPPORT FOR EAST RENFREWSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

348. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Council of 15 June 2016 (Page 1963, Item 2094 refers), when it was agreed amongst other things to continue provision of additional grant funding of £40,000 in 2017/18 to support East Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) in its work towards mitigating the impact of Welfare Reform, the Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval to continue additional grant funding in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to support East Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) in its work towards mitigating the impacts of Welfare Reform.

The report explained that the funding that had been awarded to the CAB annually since 2014 had been used to fund one full time member of staff who undertook all aspects of benefit support work. Details of the successful outcomes the post made in terms of the total Client Financial Gains in Welfare Benefits achieved by CAB during this financial year were outlined in the report.

Whilst noting that the demand for benefits advice was expected to increase further over the next few years with the introduction of Universal Credit and that the CAB would be impacted in similar ways to the Money Advice and Rights Team (MART) with increasing caseload and demands for services, the report sought approval of £40,000 of additional funding to CAB to continue to support this work, from the Welfare Contingency Fund, for a further two years.

The Cabinet agreed to:-

- (a) note the update in relation to Welfare Reform and the planned roll out of Universal Credit in East Renfrewshire in September 2018;
- (b) note the continued progress which had been made by East Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) supporting residents through the financial complexities of Welfare Reform changes; and
- (c) provide additional grant funding of £40,000 to support East Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) in its work towards mitigating the impacts of Welfare Reform for a further two years in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

ESTIMATED REVENUE BUDGET OUT-TURN 2017/18

349. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, detailing the estimated projected revenue out-turn for 2017/18 and providing details of the expected year-end variances, together with summary cost information for each of the undernoted services as at 5 January 2018:-

- (i) Objective and Subjective Summaries;
- (ii) Education Department;
- (iii) Contribution to Integration Joint Board;
- (iv) Health and Social Care Partnership;
- (v) Environment Department;
- (vi) Environment Department – Support;
- (vii) Chief Executive's Office;
- (viii) Chief Executive's Office – Support;
- (ix) Corporate and Community Services Department – Community Resources;
- (x) Corporate and Community Services Department – Support;
- (xi) Other Expenditure and Income;

- (xii) Joint Boards;
- (xiii) Contingency – Welfare; and
- (xiv) Housing Revenue Account.

Whilst noting that as at 5 January 2018, the estimated year-end position showed a net favourable variance on net expenditure of £4,589,000 based on current information, the report highlighted that Council Tax collection had been higher than budgeted, with additional income of £700,000 now anticipated, bringing the total forecast underspend on General Fund services to £5,289,000.

However, it was noted that a number of operational variances required management action to ensure that departmental expenditure would be in line with budget at the end of the financial year. At this time, it was expected that management action would lead to all overspends being recovered, that all underspends were consolidated wherever possible and that spending up to budget levels did not take place.

The Cabinet, having noted the reported probable out-turn position, agreed that:-

- (a) the service virements and operational adjustments be approved;
- (b) management action be taken to remedy the forecast overspend in Environment – Support; and
- (c) all departments continued to closely monitor their probable out-turn position.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18

350. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, monitoring expenditure as at 20 February 2018 against the approved General Fund Capital Programme 2017/18 and recommending adjustments where necessary in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The report highlighted the latest developments relating to the programme, including the latest income and expenditure movements and cash flow management issues and indicated that the projected shortfall of £93,000 represented 0.4% of the resources available and was within manageable limits.

The Cabinet agreed to:-

- (a) **recommend to the Council** that the proposed adjustments to the General Fund Capital Programme 2017/18 be approved; and
- (b) note that the shortfall of £93,000 would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18

351. The Cabinet considered a joint report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Environment, monitoring expenditure as at 20 February 2018 against the approved Housing Capital Programme 2017/18 and recommending adjustments where necessary in light of the issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The report highlighted the latest developments relating to the programme, including the latest income and expenditure movements and cash flow management issues and indicated that the projected shortfall of £36,000 represented 0.6% of the resources available and was within manageable limits.

The Cabinet agreed to:-

- (a) **recommend to the Council** that the movements within the Housing Capital Programme 2017/18 be approved; and
- (b) note that the shortfall of £36,000 would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year.

TRADING UNDER BEST VALUE

352. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, requesting that consideration be given to the classification of Council activities in terms of trading operations as defined by the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and as modified in June 2013 by the Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC). Details of the review of services that had been undertaken; a summary of trading operations and the criteria used to determine if they were significant were appended to the report.

The report explained that in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the Council was required to consider its trading operations on an annual basis and determine those which should be regarded as significant. Having noted the criteria that required to be met for a trading operation to be considered as “significant” and a further test of significance that required to be taken into account, the report explained that having taken these conditions into account, the result of the review for 2017/18 was that the Council had no significant trading operations.

The Cabinet approved that in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 that there were no trading services operated by the Council that should be classified as “significant”.

ROAD CONDITION INDICATOR FOR 2016/17 AND CURRENT MAINTENANCE BACKLOG FIGURE AND STEADY STATE BUDGET FIGURE

353. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, providing an update on the condition of the Council’s roads, the Road Condition Indicator (RCI), the Maintenance Backlog figure and Steady State budget figure.

Whilst noting that in terms of the resources available the Road Service had performed well on the RCI and achieved substantial improvements to the network over recent years, the report highlighted that the additional £1.6million allocated to the 2017/18 Roads Revenue Works Programme would considerably benefit residential and unclassified roads which currently were the areas showing the greatest deterioration.

The report highlighted that the major issue facing the Council was the backlog figure of £22.2million which was for carriageways alone. It was noted that to maintain just a steady state in road condition that is to maintain roads in their current condition would require a minimum spend of £2.5million per annum, compared to the 2018/19 structural maintenance revenue and capital budget allocation of £2,396,200.

The Cabinet noted the:-

- (a) details of the 2017 Road Condition Indicator and the considerable improvements achieved by the Road service in recent years;
- (b) current maintenance backlog figure; and
- (c) current Steady State budget figure.

ROADS REVENUE WORKS PROGRAMME 2018/19

354. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval for the Roads Revenue Works Programme 2018/19. A copy of the programme was appended to the report.

Whilst noting that the Roads Revenue Works Programme covered routine maintenance, winter maintenance and carriageway and footway resurfacing and patching, the report advised that the total allocation for 2018/19 was £3,955,300 and that in terms of the prioritisation of the proposed resurfacing schemes a number of factors had been taken into consideration. These included amongst other things the structural condition of the road or footway, the usage of the road or footway, cost of maintenance for the previous 3-years, number of complaints received regarding the road/footway and geographical spread.

Furthermore, the report indicated that the winter maintenance budget for 2018/19 had been maintained at £900,000 and that the policy and practice for winter maintenance was currently being reviewed and would be the subject of a separate report to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

The Cabinet approved the Roads Revenue Works Programme of £3,955,300 for 2018/19.

WEST OF SCOTLAND LOAN FUND LIMITED – AMENDMENT TO ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

355. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, providing details on the current status of the West of Scotland Loan Fund Limited (WSLF) and seeking approval to amend the Articles of Association.

Whilst noting that the West of Scotland Loan Fund Ltd (WSLF) was a consortium of the 12 West of Scotland local authorities and was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in June 1996, the report explained that the fund had provided loan finance in individual amounts of up to £100k and had successfully operated across the West of Scotland as a fund for more than 18 years filling the funding gap to new and growing, small and medium sized enterprises. The arrangements for supporting the foregoing activity were outlined in the report.

The report explained that whilst a number of the larger member authorities had considerable resources within the Fund and the full value of their resources was no longer required for lending purposes, the existing WSLF Company constitution, which consisted of a Members' Agreement and Articles of Association, prevented members from withdrawing funds which they did not want to be used for lending via WSLF. In addition to the constitutional restrictions, WSLF received European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding through the 2007-13 European funding programme. The rules attached to this required the funds received being reinvested in SME's and not reutilised for purposes other than loans.

Having noted the actions that were required to enable member authorities to access their funds one of which involved the current Articles of Association being amended by unanimous approval of all 12 member authorities, the report explained that in addition, confirmation was required from the Scottish Government over the treatment and value of ERDF funding that was received through the 2007-13 ERDF programme which must be utilised for future loans.

The report proposed that Article 4.2 be deleted by Special Resolution to enable the Funds to be accessed and applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the company as set out in Article 4.1. Whilst noting that some authorities had limited or indeed no surplus funds remaining in WSLF, the report indicated that it was anticipated that support for this change allowing others to withdraw their ring-fenced resource would be unanimous.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the position regarding the current status of the West of Scotland Loan Fund Limited; and
- (b) approved the proposal to amend the WSLF Articles of Association to enable member authorities to access surplus funds from the Fund, in line with the requirement to ensure that they continued to be earmarked and utilised for the purposes outlined in the objects of the company.

WRITE-OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE COMMUNITY CHARGE

356. The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval to write-off historical Community Charge balances from 1989/90 to 1992/93 totalling £3,363,049.

The report highlighted that all the arrears in question were now in excess of 20 years old and were prescribed from legal action meaning that they could no longer be pursued.

The Cabinet approved the write-off of £3,363,049 of historical Community Charge debt, which could be met from existing bad debt provision, without impact to the Council's General Fund balances.

WRITE-OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE COUNCIL TAX; NON-DOMESTIC RATES; SUNDRY DEBT INCOME AND HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS

357. The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval to write-off as irrecoverable sums associated with Council Tax and Water Charges; Non-Domestic Rates; Sundry Debt Income and Housing Benefit Overpayments.

Whilst noting that the Council's debt recovery policy listed situations where write-off of debts would be considered when all viable means of collection had been exhausted, the report highlighted that this was an annual process with sums being met from existing bad debt provision.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the write-off of the following sums, totalling up to £739,016.03 without prejudice to subsequent recovery procedure:-

- (i) Council Tax arrears totalling up to £198,040.53;
 - (ii) Non-Domestic Rates totalling up to £233,567.63;
 - (iii) Sundry Debt income totalling up to £185,230.23; and
 - (iv) Housing Benefit Overpayments totalling up to £122,177.64; and
- (b) noted that water and sewerage charges totalling up to £79,716.18 were also being written off in discussion with Scottish Water.

WRITE-OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE FORMER TENANT RENT AND COURT EXPENSES

358. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 26 January 2017 (Page 2197, Item 2361 refers), when the new rent arrears policy had been approved, the Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval to write-off former Tenant Rent and Court Expenses which could not be recovered through the debt collection process.

The Cabinet agreed:-

- (a) the write-off sum up to the value of £49,056.76 of former tenant irrecoverable Rent and Court expenses, whilst acknowledging that the sums could be pursued and recovered in future should additional information and opportunities arise; and
- (b) that £43,484.29 of this amount be written-off against the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the remaining £5,572,047 be written off against the Non-HRA as this account was accrued by homeless households placed on temporary accommodation.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Leader, the Cabinet 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 following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

DISPOSAL OF A 3.5 ACRE DEVELOPMENT SITE AT DRUMBY CRESCENT, CLARKSTON

359. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval to progress the disposal of a 3.5 acre site at Drumby Crescent, Clarkston to the company detailed in the report.

The Cabinet agreed that delegated powers be granted to the Director of Environment in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement, to progress and complete the disposal of 3.5 acres of land at Drumby Crescent, Clarkston to the successful bidder for a residential development for the sum detailed in the report.

MINUTE
of
LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Eastwood Park, Giffnock, on 20 March 2018.

Present:

Councillor Angela Convery (Chair)
Councillor Alan Lafferty

Councillor David Macdonald
Councillor Stewart Miller

Councillor Convery in the Chair

Attending:

Jacqui McCusker, Senior Solicitor; and Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

Apology:

Councillor Betty Cunningham (Vice Chair).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

360. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

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 following item of business on the grounds that it 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 CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL

361. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 3 October 2017 (Page 157, Item 169 refers), when it was agreed to continue consideration of the application to a future meeting to allow the outcome of the applicant's pending court case to be known, the committee considered a report by the Chief Officer - Legal & Procurement regarding an application for the renewal of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence (Agenda Item 3 refers). The applicant was present.

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The Senior Solicitor explained that Police Scotland had withdrawn their previous representation to the application as Glasgow Sheriff Court had found that there was no case to answer.

Having taken account of the new information, the committee agreed that the application be granted for a period of one year, subject to standard conditions.

CHAIR