

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD

MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023 – 1PM

A meeting of the Inverclyde Alliance Board will be held on Monday 13 March 2023 at 1pm within the Municipal Buildings, Greenock. Partners may attend the meeting in person or access the meeting by remote online access. Separate Webex invites have been issued for the meeting. In the event of connectivity issues, the *join by phone* number in the WebEx invitation can be used. Please note this meeting will be recorded.

Information relating to the recording of meetings can be found at the end of this notice.

BUSINESS

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minute of Previous Meeting** (copy attached)
3. **Matters Arising**
4. **Inverclyde Alliance Board Action Tracker** (copy attached)
5. **Community Food Growing Strategy**
Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council (copy attached)
6. **Inverclyde Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund**
Report by Charlene Elliott, Chief Executive, CVS Inverclyde (copy attached)
7. **Inverclyde Local Outcome Improvement Plan Progress Report November 2022 to January 2023**
Report by Chair of Programme Board (copy attached)
 - Population**
 - Flash report
 - Economy**
 - Flash report
 - Inequalities**
 - Flash report
 - Environmental, Culture and Heritage**
 - Flash report by Environment Partnership
 - Flash report by Culture and Heritage
8. **New Partnership Plan**
Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council (copy to follow)
9. **Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership Update**
Report by Chair of Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership (copy attached)
10. **Presentation on New Approach to Locality Planning by Morna Rae, Service Manager, Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships, Inverclyde Council**
11. **Inverclyde Task Force Update**
Report by Director Environment & Regeneration, Inverclyde Council (copy attached)
12. **Date of Next Meeting – Monday 19 June 2023**

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Enquiries to – **Lindsay Carrick** - 01475 712114

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD

MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2022 – 1PM

Present: Councillors E Robertson (Chair), S McCabe, G Brooks and L Quinn (Inverclyde Council), Chief Superintendent L Waddell (Police Scotland), Mr A Comrie (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport), Ms C Elliott (CVS Inverclyde), Ms S Rae (West College Scotland), Ms S Kelly (Skills Development Scotland), Mr S Frew (Scottish Enterprise), Mr R Turnock (River Clyde Homes), Mr M Gallacher (on behalf of Mr D McCarrey, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Ms K Wallace (NatureScot) and Mr S McMillan MSP.

In attendance: Ms R Binks, Mr S Jamieson, Mr H Scott, Ms M Rae, Mr R MacSween, Ms L Carrick and Mr C MacDonald (Inverclyde Council) and Mr A Stevenson (on behalf of Ms K Rocks, Inverclyde HSCP) and Mr A Dempster (Inverclyde HSCP).

The meeting was held in the Municipal Buildings, Greenock and by videoconference. Councillors Robertson and Brooks, Ms R Binks, Ms M Rae and Mr A Dempster and Chief Superintendent Laura Waddell, Police Scotland attended the meeting in person.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Chair welcomed Chief Superintendent Laura Waddell, Police Scotland to the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Ms L Long (Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council and Chair of the Programme Board), Ms K Rocks (Inverclyde HSCP), Ms F Simpson (Scottish Government), Mr D McCarrey (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) and Mr R Cowan MP.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the meeting of 3 October 2022 was submitted and approved.

MATTERS ARISING

Partnership Updates

Population – Update on Eastern Gateway

It was noted that the reporting position in relation to Eastern Gateway has been captured in the flash report.

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD TRACKER

There was submitted an action tracker arising from previous decisions of the Alliance Board.

Decided:

- (1) that the actions on the tracker be noted; and
- (2) that the revised action tracker be submitted to the next meeting of the Board taking account of the comments made at the meeting.

NOMINATION FOR ALLIANCE BOARD VICE CHAIR

There was submitted a report by the Service Manager Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships advising on the nomination for Alliance Board Vice Chair.

Decided:

- (1) that the process for nominating to the position of Inverclyde Alliance Board Vice-Chair be noted; and
- (2) that Chief Superintendent Laura Waddell, Police Scotland be appointed as Vice Chair of the Inverclyde Alliance Board.

COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT 3 YEAR PLAN 2021-24 ANNUAL REPORT AND REVISED ACTION PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development presenting the Community Learning and Development (CLD) 3 Year Plan 2021-24 Annual Report and revised action plan for approval.

Decided: that the Community Learning and Development 3 Year Plan 2021-2024 Annual Report and revised action plan be approved.

CLYDE CONVERSATIONS 5 REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development presenting a conference report on Clyde Conversations 5.

Decided:

- (1) that the Board notes the success of Clyde Conversations and acknowledges the participation of young people at all levels of planning;
- (2) that the key actions as detailed in appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (3) that the Board continues to endorse the Clyde Conversations as a means of engaging young people on issues affecting them; and
- (4) that it be remitted to officers to submit an update report to a future meeting.

PRESENTATION ON INVERCLYDE FINANCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2022-2024

The Board heard a presentation by Mr Archie Dempster, Inverclyde HSCP on the Inverclyde Financial Inclusion Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2024. Thereafter, Mr Dempster answered a number of questions from Members in relation to the presentation.

Decided:

- (1) that the presentation be noted; and
- (2) that the Inverclyde Financial Inclusion Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2024 be approved.

LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT – AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2022

There was submitted a report by the Chair of the LOIP Programme Board providing an update on the progress which has been made in implementing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022.

Decided: that the progress made in implementing the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted.

PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

Population

There was submitted a report by the Chair of the Population Partnership Group providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in implementing the

Repopulation priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided: that the progress made in implementing the Population priority of the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted.

Economy

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Environment and Regeneration, Inverclyde Council providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in implementing the Economy priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided: that the progress made in implementing the Economy priority of the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted.

Inequalities

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in the implementation of the Inequalities priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017–2022 and including a flash report.

Decided

(1) that the progress made in implementing the Inequalities priority of the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted; and

(2) that it be remitted to officers to submit a report to the next meeting of the Board on the Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund.

Cultural, Heritage and Environment

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in the implementation of the Cultural and Heritage priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided: that the progress made in implementing the Cultural and Heritage priority of the (LOIP) 2017-2022 be noted.

There was submitted a report by the Chair of the Environment Group providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in the implementation of the Environment priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided: that the progress made in implementing the Environment priority of the (LOIP) 2017-2022 be noted.

PRESENTATION ON PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Board heard a presentation by Ms Morna Rae, Service Manager Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships on Partnership Development.

Decided: that the presentation be noted.

PROGRAMME OF ALLIANCE BOARD MEETINGS 2023

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting the Board to agree to a programme of dates for meetings of the Alliance Board to December 2023.

Decided: that the programme of dates for meetings of the Alliance Board to December 2023 be approved.

MINUTE OF INVERCLYDE TASKFORCE GROUP – 27 JUNE 2023

There was submitted the Minute of the Inverclyde Taskforce Group held on 27 June 2023.

Decided: that the minute of the Inverclyde Taskforce Group held on 27 June 2023 be noted.

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Alliance Board will take place at 1pm on Monday 13 March 2023.



Inverclyde Alliance Board Action Tracker

Inverclyde Alliance

Date of Meeting	Action	Progress Update
3.10.22	<p><u>Inequalities Partnership Update</u> Update on requests made to Scottish Government will be included as part of consideration of ADP annual report when it is considered at a future Alliance meeting (Kate Rocks)</p>	<p>Scheduled for a future meeting. Date of planned ADP annual report to be confirmed.</p>
3.10.22	<p><u>Cultural, Heritage and Environment Partnership Updates</u></p> <p>(i) Report on tree planting to be provided for a future meeting (Stuart Jamieson)</p> <p>(ii) A development session on Net Zero be arranged following the Alliance Board meeting to be held in March 2023 (Morna Rae/Stuart Jamieson)</p>	<p>Scheduled for June 2023</p> <p>Scheduled for June 2023</p>
3.10.22	<p><u>Development of Inverclyde Alliance</u> Development session focused on Partnership Plan to be arranged (Morna Rae)</p>	<p>Complete – scheduled for 27th Feb and one to one meetings held with partners</p>
3.10.22	<p><u>Workshops Held After Substantive Meeting – Involving Alliance partners and Inverclyde Elected Members</u> Support provided to New Scots - Provide an update report to Alliance Board in 2023 (Kate Rocks)</p>	<p>Scheduled for June 2023</p>
5.12.22	<p><u>CLD Annual Report and Revised Action Plan</u> Information on sub-groups to be circulated (Hugh Scott)</p>	<p>Membership being reviewed. Confirmation will be circulated in April following a CLD Partnership Event.</p>

Date of Meeting	Action	Progress Update
5.12.22	<p><u>Clyde Conversations 5 Report</u> Update to be provided to a future meeting (Ruth Binks)</p>	<p>Scheduled for a future meeting. Date of next Clyde Conversations event to be confirmed.</p>
5.12.22	<p><u>Presentation on Partnership Development (Morna Rae)</u> Progress the following over 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree new Partnership Plan with updated governance/delivery structures • One to one meetings with Alliance Chair to be held • Develop approach to Locality Planning • Thematic workshops to be arranged, and variety of Board meeting locations and visits to be arranged 	<p>On agenda for March 2023</p> <p>Ongoing – held in January and February, further meetings to be arranged</p> <p>Internal discussion ongoing, approach being developed and report to be brought to a future meeting</p> <p>June meeting to be hosted by River Clyde Homes, August meeting to be hosted by West College. February workshop on Partnership Plan. June workshop on Net Zero.</p>
5.12.22	<p><u>Partnership Updates – Economy</u> Stuart Jamieson to share documents with Stuart McMillan (information on properties available for New Scots)</p>	<p>Complete</p>
5.12.22	<p><u>Partnership Updates – Inequalities</u> Report on the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund to be provided (Kate Rocks/Charlene Elliott)</p> <p>Information on Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund Event in early Spring to be shared (Charlene Elliott)</p>	<p>On agenda for March 2023</p> <p>Complete</p>



Inverclyde Alliance

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5

Report To: Inverclyde Alliance Board **Date:** 13 March 2023

Report By: Ruth Binks **Report No:**

Contact Officer: Hugh Scott, Service Manager Community Learning and Development, Community Safety & Resilience, Inverclyde Council **Contact No:** N/A

Subject: Community Food Growing Strategy

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Community Food Growing Strategy to the Alliance Board for approval.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires each local authority to prepare a food growing strategy for its area, to identify land that may be used as allotment sites, identify other areas of land that could be used for community growing, and describe how the authority intends to increase provision for community growing, in particular in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage.

2.2 A draft Food Growing Plan was developed in June 2020 and was intended to be a holding statement that set out the Council's intention to produce a fully developed Community Food Growing Strategy for Inverclyde. This has now been developed in collaboration with Inverclyde's Food Network and is contained within Appendix 1 of this report.

2.3 The Community Food Growing Strategy outlines the vision for food growing in Inverclyde, which is to increase opportunities for communities to grow their own food and contribute towards a reduction in food poverty. This vision will be achieved by:

- Building capacity within communities to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to take part in food growing;
- Creating strong partnership working between communities, the Council and housing associations;
- Ensuring communities have the resources they need to be able to take part in food growing; and
- Contributing towards a reduction in poverty through strong partnership working.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board approves the Community Food Growing Strategy.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act (2015) requires each local authority to prepare a food growing strategy for its area, to identify land that may be used as allotment sites, identify other areas of land that could be used for community growing, and describe how the authority intends to increase provision for community growing, in particular in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage.

4.2 A draft Food Growing Plan was developed in June 2020 and was intended to be a holding statement. The statement set out the Council's intention to produce a Community Food Growing Strategy for Inverclyde that would meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and contained details of:

- The legislative requirements,
- How food growing contributes to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-22;
- Links to key Council policies;
- Information in relation to allotments; and
- How community groups can access assistance.

4.3 A fully developed Community Food Growing Strategy has now been developed in collaboration with Inverclyde's Food Network. The Food Network brings together all partner organisations that are involved in either growing food, distributing food, food poverty or cookery classes. For example, the HSCP, CLD, the Inverclyde Shed, Parklea 'Branching Out', Belville Community Garden Trust, Branchton Community Centre, The Trust and West College Scotland.

4.4 The Food Network agreed that the vision for community food growing in Inverclyde should be:

To increase opportunities in Inverclyde for communities to grow their own food and contribute towards a reduction in food poverty. We want these opportunities to be well used by communities and for it to result in more local residents growing and using the food they grow.

4.5 In order to achieve this vision, the Food Network have identified the following four priorities:

- Priority 1: Build capacity within communities to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to take part in food growing;
- Priority 2: Create strong partnership working between communities, the Council and housing associations;
- Priority 3: Ensure communities have the resources they need to be able to take part in food growing; and
- Priority 4: Contribute towards a reduction in poverty through strong partnership working.

4.6 A set of actions have been identified that will enable the priorities listed above to be achieved. These are detailed within an action plan that is contained within the strategy in Appendix 1.

- 4.7 The following governance arrangements will ensure the successful development, implementation and monitoring of the strategy:
- The development of the Community Food Growing Strategy is led by the Council's Communities Service;
 - The Food Network will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the strategy;
 - Progress will be reported to the appropriate Alliance thematic group in the new structure on a quarterly basis and will inform the Partnership Plan quarterly progress report; and
 - An annual progress report will be submitted to the Alliance Board.
- 4.8 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed on the Community Food Growing Strategy and is pending approval by the Council's Corporate Policy Team.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Legal: none at present
Finance: none at present
Human Resources: none at present
Equality and Diversity: An equality impact assessment of the Community Food Strategy is being carried out.
Population: The Community Food Growing Strategy will contribute to the achievement of the Population priority.
Inequalities: The Community Food Growing Strategy will contribute to the achievement of the Inequalities priority.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 Extensive consultation and engagement with both communities and partner organisations was carried out to inform the development of the Community Food Growing Strategy.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Inverclyde's Community Food Growing Strategy



'Growing Inverclyde Together'

Moving Forward Together



Inverclyde Alliance



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FOREWORD

Councillor Elizabeth Robertson, Chair of Inverclyde Alliance

As Chair of the Inverclyde Alliance, the Inverclyde Community Planning Partnership, I am delighted to introduce Inverclyde's Community Food Growing Strategy. The strategy sets out how Inverclyde Council and its community planning partners will support community food growing across Inverclyde.

In the 2023-33 Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan our priorities include:

- Development of strong community-based services that respond to local need;
- Communities can have their voice heard, and influence the places and services that affect them;
- Gaps in outcomes linked to poverty are reduced; and
- Easy access to attractive and safe public spaces, and high quality arts and cultural opportunities.

The Community Food Growing Strategy will help us to achieve these. There is community support for local food growing as evidenced through the consultation on the Strategy and the Inverclyde Community Food Network has shaped the vision and actions within the plan. Our approach aims to use community food growing to help address poverty in our communities, and reduce the barriers to people accessing low cost and nutritious food. It will help establish more spaces and places for food growing.

Community food growing enables people to get involved in their local community, meet new people, enjoy the outdoors and take part in growing. It is the combination of these elements that makes it so appealing. Indeed, there has been an increase in the number of people who are keen to participate in outdoor activities such as gardening and food growing. This is partly due to the Covid-19 pandemic and also the many benefits of food growing. The Community Food Growing Strategy will help us to provide more opportunities for local people to get involved in food growing and enjoy the benefits that it has to offer.

Inverclyde has a network of green spaces, community gardens and allotments, as well as a Food Network which brings together all partner organisations that are involved in food growing. This, combined with a strong voluntary sector with knowledge and expertise in food growing and an abundance of local people who are keen to get involved, means that we have the foundations upon which to build a successful approach to community food growing.

Inverclyde Alliance is committed to providing local communities with more opportunities to get involved in food growing and the Community Food Growing Strategy will help us to achieve that.

WHY ARE WE DEVELOPING A FOOD GROWING STRATEGY?

A Community Food Growing Strategy for Inverclyde has been developed to meet the requirements of national policy and legislation, contribute towards the achievement of local priorities and ensure that Inverclyde benefits from a wide range of benefits associated with food growing.

National Policy

The Scottish Government has set out a vision that by 2025 Scotland will be "a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day."

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act (2015) requires each local authority to prepare a food growing strategy for its area, to identify land that may be used as allotment sites, identify other areas of land that could be used for community growing, and describe how the authority intends to increase provision for community growing, in particular in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage.

Local Policy

The Community Food Growing Strategy has a key role to play in helping Inverclyde Alliance, the area's Community Planning Partnership, to achieve its vision and priorities for Inverclyde. The development of the Community Food Growing Strategy has therefore been informed by the 2023-33 Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan.

The Community Food Growing Strategy will make a significant contribution to the achievement of all four outcomes in the 2023-33 Inverclyde Alliance Community Plan.

- Development of strong community-based services that respond to local need;
- Communities can have their voice heard, and influence the places and services that affect them;
- Gaps in outcomes linked to poverty are reduced; and
- Easy access to attractive and safe public spaces, and high quality arts and cultural opportunities.

Benefits of Community Food Growing

The Scottish Government has identified a wide range of benefits associated with community food growing. For example:

Food – Food growing provides communities with access to environmentally sound, healthy and locally sourced food. It also offers monetary savings in comparison to buying produce from retail outlets.

Health & Wellbeing – There are many health and wellbeing benefits to food growing. Not only do people who grow their own food tend to eat more healthily but



Figure 1 Variety of fruits and vegetables grown at Shore Street Garden. (cc) Inverclyde Shed

gardening activities can provide low-impact exercise and help to improve physical health. Community growing can lower stress levels, offer mental health benefits and a supportive social environment. Creating green space in built up areas improves air quality and provides recreational opportunities that encourage socialising, decreases isolation and leads to improved confidence and self-esteem.



Figure 2 Group from Belville Street Community Garden visiting Muirshiel Gardens

Community – Food growing can help to improve the quality of life of local residents by bringing vacant or derelict land back into use. Participation in food growing also helps to foster a sense of community as it brings communities together and provides volunteering opportunities. Food growing can also help to reduce social isolation and loneliness amongst older people and more vulnerable groups who are socially isolated.

Biodiversity - Community growing spaces can improve biodiversity as well as create important green corridors for wildlife. The Community Food Growing Strategy will help to meet the objectives of the Scottish

Biodiversity Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plans, as well as the Pollinator Strategy for Scotland.

Climate Change - Community growing sites can help to alleviate climate change through good soil management and appropriate ground cover management via healthy and appropriate plant cover. Community food growing spaces contribute to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change through carbon reduction and sustainable design. Other sustainability benefits can be considerable, such as reduction in air miles, reduction in carbon emissions and improvements to air quality through locally grown food.

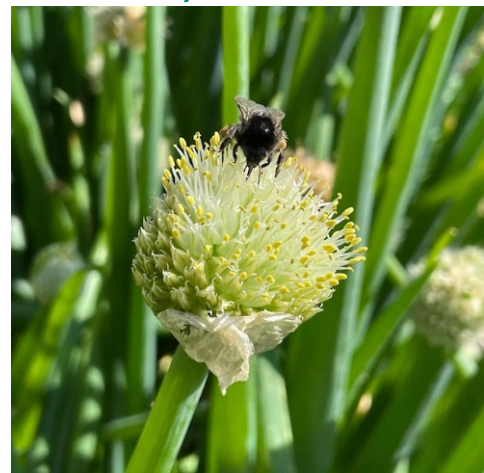


Figure 3 Bee pollenating flower at Shore Street Garden. (cc) Inverclyde Shed

Recycling & Food Waste - Community growing can lead to a reduction in food waste through composting and reduced food packaging. People are also less likely to waste the food that they grow, and are more likely to put grow-your-own waste into the compost, thereby returning nutrients to the soil. Community food growing spaces can also make positive contributions to sustainable drainage through the permeable surfaces of food growing spaces and the harvesting of rainwater.

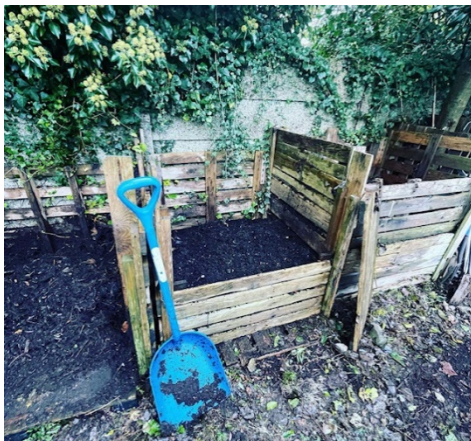


Figure 4 Composting at Shore Street Gardens. (cc) Inverclyde Shed

Soil Management - An organic approach to community growing can help to reverse soil degradation. Reversing this trend will help to address the loss of organic matter from the soil, reduce soil compaction and erosion, and help to reverse the trend in mineral decline in vegetables.



Figure 6 Weekly tasks delivered by Parklea Association Branching Out

Education & Training - Food growing spaces provide a learning environment, where young and old can learn about a wide range of topics, including: biodiversity; skills to grow-your-own; botany; climatology; cookery; geography; recycling/upcycling. Food growing programmes in schools can have positive impacts on pupil nutrition and attitudes towards healthy eating, specifically related to the willingness to try new foods; and allows pupils to learn about their natural environment, how to grow and harvest food, and to be less wasteful of natural resources. Taking part in community growing activities can develop 'soft' skills such as communication skills, problem solving, and team working etc. that help to increase employability.

Local Economy - Community growing can contribute to the local economy and encourage enterprising activity. For example, from selling produce such as fruits and vegetables and jams and chutneys, providing training and contributing to personal development opportunities.



Figure 5 Inverclyde Shed produce stall at Walled Gardens pop-up market. (cc) Inverclyde Shed



FOOD GROWING IN INVERCLYDE

Community food growing is already well established in Inverclyde and the area possess a number of assets that we will utilise to help us increase the opportunities that are available for local communities to participate. These assets are detailed below.

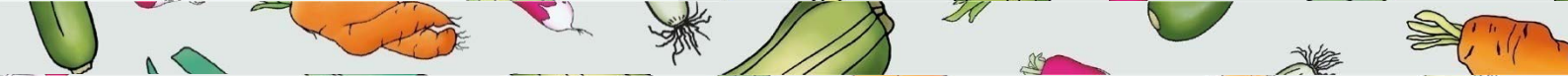
Inverclyde Community Food Network - is a group of local partner organisations and volunteers who support and encourage food growing and food sharing across Inverclyde by:

- Encouraging and supporting local people to get involved in food growing activities;
- Raising awareness of what support services are available around food insecurity and food waste;
- Enabling communities to access food and surplus food, and
- Reducing food waste.

Some of the group's achievements so far include:

- 50 local people have been trained in community cooking;
- Running events such as a moveable feast to which new Scots were invited;
- Belville Community Garden set up "soup and a bleather" which runs every week;
- The distribution of excess food from supermarkets;
- The establishment of community fridges; and
- The delivery of food boxes during the pandemic, as well as gardening boxes and the establishment of soup sheds.

The Community Food Network was widely consulted during the development of the Community Food Growing strategy and will play a key role in its implementation.



Community Gardens – Inverclyde has a number of community gardens and allotments where local people can participate in community food growing. The community gardens are all very welcoming and offer a great way to make friends, improve physical and mental health and enjoy the outdoors. There are regular clubs and more informal drop-ins and events, details of which can be found at www.icfn.org.uk

Parklea Branching Out

Parklea Playing Fields, Greenock Road, Port Glasgow PA14 6TR. Telephone: 01475 744516 Email: admin@parkleaassociation.org.uk Informal garden drop-in usually Tuesdays and Fridays. Please call for more information.

Belville Community Garden

53 - 57 Belville St, Greenock, PA15 4UN Telephone: - 01475 726034 Email: info@belvillecommunitygarden.org.uk Gardening Club Mondays 1.00-3.00 Come along or call for more information. Raised bed allotments including disabled access beds available at small annual cost

Branchton Community Centre

78 Branchton Rd, Greenock, PA16 0XX Telephone: 01475 638481 Email: branchtonmanager@gmail.com Gardening club Tuesday mornings. Please call for more information.

Shore Street Garden –

Shore Street, Gourock Email: contact@inverclydeshed.co.uk Gardening club Mondays 10.00-12.00 weather dependent. Please call for more information

Muirshiel Lane Market Garden

Muirshiel Ln, Port Glasgow PA14 5XS Email: contact@inverclydeshed.co.uk Informal volunteering. Please get in touch for more information.

The Drying Green Garden

South West Library - 159 Inverkip Rd, Greenock PA16 9HG Telephone: 01475 715667. Informal volunteering, with a view to regular garden club. Please get in touch/check social media for more information.

Blooming Inverkip

Kip Park Main Street, Greenock PA16 0FZ Telephone: 01475 520740. Informal volunteering on Saturday mornings with a view to regular gardening club in 2023. Please call for more information.

Wellington Allotments

Wellington street, Greenock Telephone: 0785 1454042 Email: alison.duncan@ntlworld.com Allotments available on waiting list basis.

Inverclyde Food Map – Inverclyde Community Food Network has produced a food map of Inverclyde which provides details of where communities can access the following:

- Community food growing sites;
- Food banks, cafes and pantries;
- Excess food donations;
- School gardens;
- Allotments; and
- Cooking sessions.

The food map can be accessed via the Inverclyde Community Food Network website at www.icfn.org.uk/food-map

What land is available in Inverclyde for food growing?

Allotments - Inverclyde Council has one official allotment site located in Wellington Street, Greenock. The allotment has 35 plots ranging from full size, half quarter and raised beds. The allotments are managed by an elected committee.

Other land - In terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Inverclyde Council is required to publish a register of all land which, to the best of the Council's knowledge and belief, is owned or leased by the Council. Below is a link to the Land Register. Please note that this list has not yet been finalised and therefore may change.

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/asset-transfer-requests/register-of-land>

What local organisations are involved in community food growing?



The Inverclyde Shed create places for people to meet, make, grow and share. Their primary aim is to tackle poor mental & physical health, addressing loneliness and particularly but not exclusively amongst older men, often a hard-to-reach group. Their spaces include an established community garden in Gourrock, a new fruit orchard space in Port Glasgow and a network of school / nursery 'small growing spaces'.



Parklea 'Branching Out' is a voluntary organisation established in 1997 to help develop local individuals with support needs so that they can reach their potential. Parklea use horticulture as a vehicle to provide a variety of different training, work experience, supported employment, recreational and social facilities for a variety of clients including adults and children with learning and/or physical disabilities, those with mental health problems, school leavers, young and long term unemployed, elderly groups and community groups. Parklea also provide training to SVQ level in horticulture and employability programmes.



Belville Community Garden Trust is a registered Scottish charity formed in 2014 by local people to bring community groups and individuals together in the east end of Greenock. Belville promotes a safer, stronger community around improving lifestyles and health primarily through gardening, horticulture and healthy eating. Since opening in 2014, Belville Community Garden have developed a status within the community as a central food growing hub, organising and co-ordinating community groups and schools in growing projects.



Inverclyde's Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) plays a key role in co-ordinating the work of the Food Network. It also supports all aspects of food, including food poverty, supporting Fairshare distribution and organises accredited training to train local people to delivery cookery classes. The HSCP also provides small amounts of money to purchase food for the cooking classes and further training.



Branchton Community Centre is an important community hub serving the Greenock South West area. Its main priorities are to provide classes, courses, services and activities to tackle social exclusion and all kinds of poverty. Over the last 2 years the Community Centre has added food growing and food distribution to its list of services. It has a community garden beside the Centre and has taken ownership from the Council of a plot of land near the Centre to expand its growing activities. This is supported by a strong volunteer growing group. Food distribution is also an important element of the work of the Centre and it collects and hands out food donated by local supermarkets to reduce food waste. The Centre also has a charity shop to hand out food and household goods.



Community Learning and Development (CLD) are responsible for the development of the Food Growing Strategy and work in partnership with West College Scotland to run local horticulture classes which helps to both grow interest in horticulture and develop skills within the community.



Bluebird Family Centre Organisation works in partnership with various local organisations to introduce food growing with staff and the children. Members of the community build planters and areas for planting to take place.



Consultation and Community Engagement

Extensive consultation and engagement with both communities and partner organisations was carried out to inform the development of the Community Food Growing Strategy.

Engagement with Communities

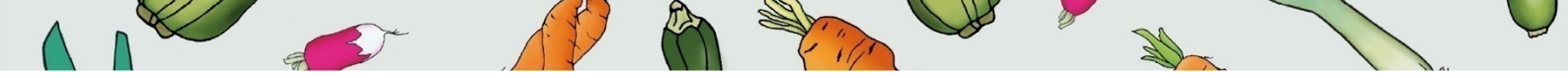
Feedback was gathered from local residents who either have an interest in or are involved in community gardening / growing and below is what they told us:

- Community food growing enables people to get involved in their local community, meet new people, enjoy the outdoors and take part in growing. It is the combination of these elements that makes it so appealing.
- The social aspect of food growing is one of the main reasons why people choose to take part.
- There is a lack of awareness of the food growing opportunities that are available across Inverclyde.
- There are a lot of older people who would like to take part but see their age as a barrier and perceive food growing to be labour intensive.
- There is a lack of knowledge of how to use the produce grown. To address this issue, local people would like to attend cookery classes to learn how best to use the produce grown.

Engagement with partners

The Food Network was consulted throughout the development of the strategy and below is the feedback they provided:

- A lack of skills and knowledge is one of the key barriers that prevents local communities from taking part in community food growing. The first step is to increase the capacity of individuals to grow their own food before looking at increasing the amount of land that is available for food growing.
- There is a lack of awareness amongst the public of the food growing sites that are available in Inverclyde.
- Communities find it difficult to access information about community asset transfer and find the process to be complicated. This is a barrier that prevents communities from accessing land for community food growing.
- Access to funding, tools and equipment, seeds and compost are barriers that prevent communities from taking part in food growing.

- 
- Access to compost is one of the biggest problems and communities need access to a car to be able to access and transport it.
 - There is a gap around how excess food is shared and distributed.
 - It is important that the strategy contributes to addressing food poverty.
 - Inverclyde does not currently have a grow your own facility.
 - Work with schools and pre-5 establishments is an important element of providing access to food growing, increasing knowledge and skills and addressing food poverty.



OUR VISION AND PRIORITIES

Our vision for community food growing in Inverclyde is:

To increase opportunities in Inverclyde for communities to grow their own food and contribute towards a reduction in food poverty. We want these opportunities to be well used by communities and for it to result in more local residents growing and using the food they grow.

We have identified four priorities that will help us to achieve this vision. The identification of these priorities has been informed by extensive consultation with communities and organisations who are involved in food growing locally.

Priority 1: Build capacity within communities to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to take part in food growing.

Priority 2: Create strong partnership working between communities, the Council and housing associations.

Priority 3: Ensure communities have the resources they need to be able to take part in food growing.

Priority 4: Contribute towards a reduction in poverty through strong partnership working.



Priority 1: Build capacity within communities to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to take part in community food growing.

Why is this a priority?

This is a priority because one of the main barriers that prevents local communities from taking part in community food growing is a lack of skills and knowledge. Building capacity within communities through training and skills development is therefore vital in enabling communities to be able to grow their own food.

Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	When will we get there?	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?
<p>The Invergrow project will provide training to increase the capacity of individuals to grow their own food. (Please note this action is dependent on a successful funding application).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If funding is awarded, the first step will be to recruit and appoint a Project Officer. - The Project Officer will work with the Food Network to assess training requirements and develop suitable training. 	<p>Year 1 – recruitment of Project Officer.</p> <p>Year 2 – A training needs analysis will be undertaken with the Food Network and community groups. Pilot training courses will also take place during year 2.</p> <p>Year 3 – a programme of training will be developed and implemented.</p>	<p>Communities will be able to access training courses to help them develop their skills and knowledge to be able to grow their own food.</p>	<p>Invergrow Project Officer</p>
<p>Establish a mentor network of people who have expertise in food growing and would be</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a resource booklet for schools and nurseries on what to grow and when. 	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>There will be a programme of regular networking events and regular learning events such as “how</p>	<p>Food Network</p>



<p>willing to share their knowledge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - Undertake a mapping exercise of food growing currently taking place in schools and nurseries. - Share case studies and visits to schools and nurseries so that establishments can learn from what others have done. - Apprentices provide support to schools and nurseries to prepare sites for food growing. 	<p>Year one</p> <p>Year two</p> <p>Year three</p>	<p>to” workshops to support growing activities.</p>	
<p>Engage with children and families to find out how best to go about providing access to growing opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a resource booklet for schools and nurseries on what to grow and when. - Undertake a mapping exercise of food growing currently taking place in schools and nurseries. - Share case studies and visits to schools and nurseries so that establishments can learn from what others have done. 	<p>Year one</p> <p>Year one</p> <p>Year two</p>	<p>Food growing opportunities will be developed tailored to the needs of children and families.</p>	<p>Food Network</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apprentices provide support to schools and nurseries to prepare sites for food growing. 	Year two/three		
Create a section for food growing on the online learning platform Moodle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make informal learning available on Moodle. For example, quizzes and case studies on volunteers. - Develop "How to videos". For example, how to plant seeds, harvest, cook etc. - Develop an SQA course on food growing in conjunction with West of Scotland College. 	<p>Year one</p> <p>Year one</p> <p>Year two/three</p>	Inverclyde residents will be able to access online training on food growing which will lead to an increase in knowledge and expertise.	Food Network



Priority 2: Create strong partnership working between communities, the Council and housing associations

Why is this a priority?

This is a priority because a successful approach to community food growing is dependent on communities, the Council and housing associations working together to ensure that communities are aware of how they can get involved in community growing and the food growing sites that are available across Inverclyde.

Where do we want to be?	How will we get there	When will we get there?	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?
Further develop the Food Network’s map of Inverclyde to include all sites available for food growing and community assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update the map to include schools and nurseries. - Uptake the map to include food sharing across Inverclyde. 	<p>Year one</p> <p>Year one</p>	Communities will be able to easily access an interactive map to find out what sites are available for growing food in Inverclyde.	Food Network
Develop a promotional campaign to promote the opportunities available within Inverclyde for growing food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide information to support people to be able to grow at home. - Develop and distribute a “growing kit”. - Promote the food map and all the partners that are involved in food growing in the Greenock Telegraph. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Year one</p> <p>Year two</p>	<p>Communities will have greater awareness of how they can get involved in community food growing and how they can access training.</p> <p>Communities will have increased knowledge about how to grow food at home, leading to more people growing food at home.</p>	Food Network

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run themed promotions, e.g. food growing, cooking. 	Ongoing		
Develop and share a calendar of food events taking place across all partner organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and populate a calendar and create a process to keep it updated. - Promote the calendar. 	Year one Ongoing	Food events will be co-ordinated and promoted across all partner organisations which will lead to increased attendance and participation.	Food Network
Develop guidance and support for communities to help them with the asset transfer process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and publish case studies of successful community asset transfers. - Revise and update guidance for communities on asset transfer. - Review and update information on asset transfer on the Council's web site. - Run events to provide communities with information about asset transfer and how to go about it. 	Year one Year one Year one Ongoing	It will be easy for communities to access information about how to apply for an asset transfer with information available via the Council web site and support available from the Communities Service.	CLD Services



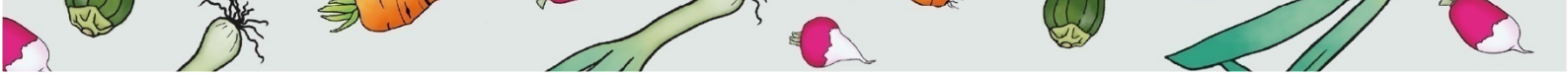
Priority 3: Ensure communities have the resources they need to be able to take part in food growing				
Why is this a priority? This is a priority because access to funding, equipment, tools and compost is currently a barrier that makes it difficult for community groups to take part in food growing.				
Key Actions?	How will we get there?	When will we get there?	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?
The Invergrow project will establish 6 pop up sites and 10 new food growing sites across Inverclyde. (Please note this action is dependent on a successful funding application).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The identification of possible pop up sites and good growing sites. - Engagement with communities regarding the location of sites. - Establishment of pop-up sites. - Establishment of food growing sites. 	Year one Year one Year two Year three	There will be more opportunities for communities to take part in food growing and this will lead to an increase in the tonnage of locally grown food.	Invergrow Project Officer
Develop a food growing library that will provide community groups with access to tools, seeds and book/websites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a seed library at South West Library. - Set up an ask and offer site for community groups through mechanisms such as Facebook. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a seed library at South West Library. - Establish an ask and offer site for community groups through mechanisms such as Facebook. 	Year one Year one	Community groups will find it easy to access the tools and seeds they need to be able to participate in food growing, as well as information to encourage further learning.	Food Network
Actively explore options to enable community groups to access a starter fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop eligibility criteria, spend deadlines and feedback and evaluation processes to support the 	Year one	Community groups will receive funding to enable them to begin growing their own food.	Food Network



	distribution of the Food Network's £15k growing fund.			
Investigate the possibility of local businesses providing sponsorship / in kind support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigate the possibility of local businesses providing sponsorship / in kind support. - Establish links with local businesses to obtain a discount on compost. - Explore the possibility of bulk buying compost. 	<p>Year one</p> <p>Year one</p> <p>Year one</p>	Local businesses provide sponsorship or a discount for the materials required by community groups to be able to participate in food growing.	Food Network
Establish links with the Council's apprenticeship programme to investigate the possibility of apprentices providing assistance at growing sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilise apprentices to help with planting bulbs, supporting schools and nurseries and planting orchards. - Work with West College Scotland to link in with their horticulture courses. - Investigate the possibility of the Scouts/Girl Guides etc providing support at food growing sites. 	<p>Year one</p> <p>Year two</p> <p>Year one</p>	Partner organisations will receive assistance with site maintenance and apprentices will gain new skills and knowledge which will help them to access employment.	Food Network

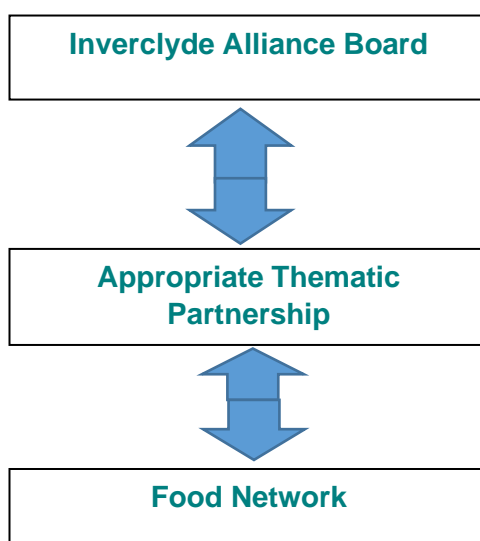


Priority 4: Contribute towards a reduction in food poverty through strong partnership working.				
Why is this a priority? Providing communities with opportunities to grow and cook their own food and distributing food that would otherwise go to waste are two ways in which we can contribute towards a reduction in food poverty.				
Key Actions?	How will we get there?	When will we get there?	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?
Actively explore the possibility of establishing a local grow your own facility in Inverclyde.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a feasibility study regarding the potential establishment of a grow your own facility. 	Year three	Local residents will be able to access a grow your own facility in Inverclyde where they can obtain fresh fruit and vegetables.	Food Network
Work with schools and pre-5 establishments to create an orchard and / or growing space within each school / pre-5 establishment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish links with the Health and Wellbeing Network within Education to develop a project plan 	Year one	Every school and pre-5 establishment will be offered the opportunity to develop an orchard and / or growing space that will enable pupils to help themselves to food.	Food Network
Work with partners to help the Food Network distribute food that would otherwise go to waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a method to promote and share food that is available. - Develop a bank of recipes 	Year one Year one	Supermarket food near the end of its "Use By" and "Best Before" dates will be donated to local charities to distribute and use.	Food Network
Undertake a campaign to change the rules around food "Use By" Dates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the petition to extend "use by" dates by one day. 	Year one	Supermarket food is currently donated to local organisations on the day of its "Use By" date. The campaign will ensure that charities receive this food 1 day earlier ensuring that no food goes to waste and that food is given to people in need.	Food Network



GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The governance structure for the delivery of the Community Food Growing Strategy is set out in the diagram below. Please note that community planning governance structures will be under review in 2023 and therefore the governance arrangements may change.



Role of Inverclyde Alliance Board

The Alliance Board is Inverclyde's Community Planning partnership (CPP). It has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act (2015), including the development and implementation of a Community Food Growing Strategy. A report on progress made on the actions contained within the plan will be submitted to Inverclyde Alliance Board on an annual basis to enable the Community Planning Partnership to scrutinise performance.

Role of the appropriate Thematic Group

Following a review of the Alliance delivery structures in line with the new 2023-33 Partnership Plan, the governance of the Food Growing Strategy will be allocated to the appropriate thematic group. The appropriate thematic group will have the Food Growing Strategy as an action within their delivery plan and will report on progress with the implementation of the strategy to the Alliance on a quarterly basis.

Role of the Food Network

Responsibility for the delivery of the Community Food Growing Strategy will lie with the Food Network. The Food Network brings together all partner organisations that are involved in either growing food, distributing food, food poverty or cookery classes. This strong partnership approach will enable the Food Network to co-ordinate food growing across Inverclyde and to report progress to the Environment Partnership and the Alliance Board.



Inverclyde Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund

Charlene Elliott, Chief Executive, CVS Inverclyde

Inverclyde Alliance, March 2023

Background

As part of the Recovery and Renewal Fund, the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care announced a new Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (the Fund) for adults in October 2021, with £15 million being made available in 2021- 22 and a further £15m committed for 2022/23.

The Fund is distributed locally by CVS Inverclyde (CVSI) to community groups and organisations in Inverclyde. Building on the focus on wellbeing and prevention in the Mental Health – Scotland’s Transition and Recovery Plan the Fund will provide significant investment into community support for adults (aged over 16 years of age). This investment complements the children and young people’s community wellbeing supports currently being rolled out across Scotland.

Fund Priorities

The overarching aim of the Fund is to support community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health, with a particular focus on:

1. Tackling priority issues within the Transition and Recovery Plan such as suicide prevention, social isolation and loneliness, prevention and early intervention
2. Addressing the mental health inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic and the needs of a range of ‘at risk’ groups locally
3. Supporting small ‘grass roots’ community groups and organisations to deliver such activities
4. Providing opportunities for people to connect with each other, build trusted relationships and revitalise communities
5. Supporting recovery and creativity locally by building on what is already there, what was achieved through the pandemic, and by investing in creative solutions

Inverclyde Priorities and Criteria

This fund recognises the crucial role that the Third Sector plays in supporting and improving the mental health and wellbeing of people living across Scotland. Together we want to ensure that everyone in Inverclyde is supported to achieve good mental health and wellbeing ensuring that the right help and support is available whenever it is needed.

The aim of the Fund is to ensure that the funding can be used to support identified local priorities in relation to improving mental health and wellbeing.

Inverclyde’s funding criteria was developed by considering the following:

- Strategic review of local strategies including Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Operational Plan 2019-24, Inverclyde Single Operating Plan, Inverclyde Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022, Inverclyde Alliance Covid 19 Partnership Recovery Plan, Inverclyde HSCP Equality Outcomes, Actions and Measures Plan, Inverclyde Alliance Active Inverclyde Strategy
- Scottish Government mental health strategies including the Scottish Mental Health Strategy 2017-27 and Mental Health – Scotland’s Transition and Recovery
- Discussion with key partners and partnership groups to ascertain demand and need
- Consultation and surveys with Community Link Workers
- Co-production activities with people with lived experience specifically about the fund, this included 2 focus groups and one telephone interview
- Ongoing co-production and consultation work undertaken by CVS Inverclyde and through the recently formed Wellbeing Network, and the work of Your Voice through the people led

Inverclyde HSCP Advisory Network on the health and wellbeing needs of the local community particularly in relation to what is needed for communities to recover from the impact of the pandemic.

Strategic Partnership Group

To deliver the Fund, Inverclyde Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (ICMHWF) Strategic Partnership Group was established, which includes representation from:

- CVS Inverclyde (Chair)
- Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership
- Inverclyde Council - also representing the Inverclyde Alliance (Inverclyde CPP)
- Your Voice
- Inverclyde Association for Mental Health
- Inverclyde Carers Centre
- People with lived mental health experience

The Group builds upon existing partnerships, networks and alliances and works together to ensure support to community-based organisations is directed appropriately and in a coherent way.

The Group identified the local priorities and aim to support a range of community-based initiatives funded across Inverclyde which are easily accessible, promote mental health and wellbeing, help people build emotional resilience and prevent individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Beneficiaries must be aged 16 and over and successful projects funded can only deliver services in Inverclyde.

Assessment Process

Bids under £10k are assessed by CVS Inverclyde and specialists employed to support delivery of the Fund. Bids over £10k, including continuation bids in Year 2 were assessed by CVS Inverclyde, external specialists, Inverclyde HSCP Health Improvement Lead and Inverclyde HSCP Mental Health Programme Manager. After scoring the projects independently, an assessment panel meets to discuss the scores for each applicant and make recommendations to the Strategic Partnership Group. In both Year 1 and Year 2 ICMHWF was heavily oversubscribed and some difficult decisions were reached.

Year 1 – 2021/22

Inverclyde Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund funded 20 projects at a total value of £338,301 for delivery in year 1. There were 2 application rounds. The first round was open for all sizes of organisations for small and medium grant requests, the second round was only open for grants of up to £10k for smaller organisations (turnover of less than £150k). ICMHWF ringfenced £80K for smaller organisations and we achieved £79,999. 5 organisations had an income of less than £25k.

A list of approvals is attached.

Year 2 – 2022/23

Funding of £242,085 was awarded for 2022/23. Round 1 for Year 2 closed on Tuesday 22nd November 2022. 17 applications were received by the deadline with an additional application being submitted 3 days later. 6 Organisations requested continuation funding for projects approved in year 1. 12 applications were received from either new organisation or for new projects. 8 were from new organisations and 4 were from organisations funded previously but the grant request was for a new project this year.

£80k was ringfenced for applications from small organisations with an income of less than £150k and £80k was ringfenced for new organisations and/or new projects.

£215,431.40 was awarded to 15 organisations in Year 2 Round 1, leaving £26,653 for Round 2, which closed in January 2023 with decisions pending at the time of writing.

A list of approvals for Year 2, Round 1 are listed below.

Year 1 Approvals

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Awarded
Port Glasgow Juniors CSC	The project combines the benefits of football on mental health recovery with the need to address the impact of the pandemic on poverty and unemployment in Inverclyde and will promote mental health, inclusion and better physical health. The project will build on 2 coaches having completed a Mental Health Course through the SFA coach education programme and allow 30 members to play without the worry of affording a subscription and tackle their stress and depression and improve confidence and self-esteem as a result.	£2,000
Lyle Gateway	This project responds to the increase in weekly service users (at Lyle Gateway) from 100 pre-covid to 165 since restrictions have eased - 71% of whom are defined as at risk. Funding will provide an additional member of staff to safeguard the quality of support to a greater number of people within a community café environment which encourages people to stay for as long as they need to irrespective of how much they spend. The new staff member will work to promote healthier living and mental wellbeing through exercise, diet, and socialising.	£8,000
Belville Community Garden Trust	This project will respond to the need to address the impact of COVID19 on isolation, particularly New Scots, over 55's, those in caring roles. Funding will enable delivery of a range of new activities including; Appointment of Activity Coordinator to develop/lead activities; Deliver 3 weekly group activities with a focus on New Scots, carers and over 55's; deliver 2 rounds of Mindfulness Based Living Course, an 8-week course previously run in an outdoor setting; establish bi-monthly mental health focus group, also accessible on-line; Hire a minibus and employ a driver to transport participants to events and activities.	£41,752
Greenock Morton Community Trust	'Breakfast and a Blether' is a new weekly mental health project at Cappielow Park, home of professional football club Greenock Morton. Open to any adult from Inverclyde struggling with their mental health this will provide breakfast, prior to an opportunity to Walk & Talk with others, and then the opportunity to return to Cappielow Park for tea, coffee, and a chance to learn about other resources/signposting in their local community. Participants are expected to improve their mental and physical health, benefit from peer support, establish friendships and feel more connected and less alone.	£9,200

Inverclyde Carers Centre	This project will create additional and accessible support for carers in Inverclyde and help them improve their physical and mental wellbeing. Carers can expect to benefit from gentle exercise, a walking group, discussion and support group, and a range of classes/activities including reflexology and aromatherapy. These will be available in community venues throughout Inverclyde including Port Glasgow, Branchton, Inverkip and Gourrock. The project will be enabled through input from volunteers to help motivate participants and facilitate social connections at the end of structured activities through tea/coffee, peer support and informal discussions.	£9,300
Parklea Branching Out	This Community Inclusion programme will pilot activities in Port Glasgow including sports, community dance, therapeutic art, and creative sessions (painting, soap making, glass, wood and crafts) and health and wellbeing support for people with a disability and Additional Support Need. In addition, a Growing and Learning Together programme will create access to community growing activities within outside accessible space and digital inclusion activities will develop skills in a modern digital environment. Weekly walks and access to All Ability Cycling Sessions will create more opportunity to get outdoors. Participants will improve their physical and mental health and confidence and reduce isolation.	£10,000
Rig Arts	This project will expand RIG Art's Creativity in Mind project, to build upon its success by offering additional weekly workshops, supporting more new participants, and bringing people with lived experience together in safe, fun space. Participants will include Inverclyde residents living with mental health difficulties, including addiction and involve them in weekly workshops over 40 weeks. Led by professional artists the sessions will use creative expression to foster healing, symptom management, and wellbeing, create a nurturing, non-clinical environment to encourage participants to express themselves and build self-esteem, promoting positive mental health and recovery.	£9,940
MindMosaic Counselling and Therapy	Activity will improve the mental health and wellbeing of people facing challenging circumstances by fostering self-management, building on skills and relationships, improving self-esteem, and building resilience. Implementation will develop and expand provision and include; delivery of 3 x 6-week Everyday Mindfulness Courses; expand the Trauma Resource Course which supports trauma recovery; delivery of 3 x 6 week Supporting Positive Mental Health course to help people suffering from anxiety and depression gain self-management tools; expand delivery of Mums Flourish and Dads Flourish @ MindMosaic groups that support parents in the difficult period between pregnancy and their child reaching two.	£31,790

Homestart Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	- Activity will support parents identified as struggling with their mental health and confidence and/or experiencing isolation, and loneliness including young mums, fathers, and new Scots through appointment of a Wellbeing Coordinator. The post holder will; develop content, coordinator speakers and training for weekly group sessions in partnership with other local providers; provide one-to-one support to address individual needs; participate in group sessions to provide targeted support to those struggling with mental health and wellbeing; manage ongoing referrals to wider community supports and maintain relationships with individuals to encourage attendance.	£24,651
6footlab	Project Blue focuses on offering friendship, acceptance and care to young people aged over 16 who face isolation. The project will support LGB and transgender young people, young people struggling with depression, eating disorders, anxiety, bullying, some of whom also have dysfunctional families, face abuse or/and poverty. The role of art in mental health is widely recognised and proved to promote resilience, engagement, boost confidence, alleviate depression, anxiety, and stress. The funding will enable the set up an art studio and gallery which will be used to deliver art workshops, therapy sessions and art/craft projects.	£10,000
Inverclyde Association for Mental Health	Walking towards Wellness builds on feedback from the local community and involves delivery of a series of workshops, classes, and events to promote good mental and physical health, and overall wellbeing of those aged 18+. Activities cover a wide range of interests including yoga, digital inclusion work, wellbeing workshops looking at diet and exercise, and gardening and floristry, as well as socially based events including weekly Listen Over Lunch, and a monthly social event. For those seeking targeted mental health advice therapeutic talk time will be delivered by a qualified instructor to support emotional resilience and self-esteem.	£49,700
Man On	The project will support the growth of the Man On! Peer Support model in Inverclyde, an early-intervention support model that meets people where they are at, this will relieve the pressure on people having to wait for mental health support and will deliver key interventions for people struggling with their mental health. They will deliver 1 to 1 sessions and group support to more people and provide them access to a Wellbeing Worker and a Wellbeing Plan. The funding will support the recruitment of 5 part-time Wellbeing Workers for 6 hours per week each. The Wellbeing Workers will have direct Lived-Experience and will have the skillset to provide peer-support. The project will also support 20 people to access community befriending support and 20 to access Suicide First Aid programme. Funding will also support small capital renovations to specific areas in the building for 1-1 direct support and to create a sensory room which would be co-produced and created in partnership with those using it.	£22,000

Your Voice	This project will help people to manage their mental health and wellbeing, and long-term conditions, and reduce isolation and loneliness by adopting a peer support model to enable people to become effective self-managers. Funding will support additional staffing costs and allow for the capacity building of 4 existing Peer Support Groups (COPD & Asthma Stroke, MS and Fibromyalgia) and creation of two new groups; one for Long COVID, and another to address social isolation and loneliness. Participants will have better access to resources and knowledge and experience an improvement in their quality of life.	£45,510
Greenock United	Greenock United provides the only opportunity for adults with additional support needs to play organised football on a regular basis in Inverclyde. Funding will provide a much-needed opportunity for exercise for people with disabilities in the local area which there is limited provision. People with disabilities, particularly those with learning disabilities, statistically experience poorer health and unfortunately have lower life expectancy than the rest of the population. This project helps to provide an opportunity for exercise which has a positive impact on physical and mental health of the people who attend.	£1,500
Branchton Community Centre	This project responds to the needs of an increasingly isolated community leading to poorer mental health and will provide a safe space to explore the roots of participant's challenges. All will be offered one-to-one introduction to increase confidence and participation, and help with transportation costs to allow for engagement in a range of activities such as; ASSIST training, mental health first aid, budget friendly cooking classes, Paths for All leader training, talking groups, exercise classes, arts classes, sewing groups, upcycling classes. Participants will be supported to reduce their social isolation and improve confidence through a self-sustaining model of self-reliance.	£26,459
Kildron Project	Digital Connect is a new collaborative project between Kidron Project and Access Technology Scotland. The 36-week project will establish a digital network for people experiencing poverty and digital exclusion which is fast becoming a major challenge in society. From securing work and learning at school to accessing bank details and communicating with friends almost every aspect of life requires basic digital skills. Beneficiaries will be individuals currently supported by Kidron Project, who might have complex needs and struggle with any of the following issues: homelessness, addictions, mental health problems, learning disability, physical disability, long term health conditions, isolation, multiple exclusion.	£8,424

The Inverclyde Shed	This project will reduce isolation and loneliness and improve mental and physical wellbeing, predominately for older men, who can be difficult to reach. Funding will provide a new shed for the community garden in Port Glasgow and provide a sheltered space for meetings, meals and skills learning. This will enhance the site, enabling additional and better support and a greater degree of skills sharing between volunteer's and learning from outside bodies with organised 'masterclasses' to train volunteers. The project will involve younger men through the Community Justice team, providing opportunities for young, convicted men to contribute back to their communities.	£10,000
Inverclyde Christian Initiative	The project will provide Mental Health First aid training to volunteer Street and Rail Pastors who support vulnerable people at night time. They will provide emotional and practical support and connect people in crisis to other organisations such as Inverclyde Council Homeless Unit, addiction support services etc.	£1,200
Compassionate Grit CIC	Ready Player One will teach young people aged 16-18 to acknowledge their qualities, values, inspire self-belief and promotes an environment and attitude of inclusivity regardless of individual circumstance. The project will support the prevention of mental health in young people reaching crisis point. Young people will be provided with the skills and knowledge to self-manage their emotional, social, and mental well-being and to encourage better life choices. This will increase a better quality of life for participants and the benefits will be felt like a ripple effect from participants to peers, siblings, families, community and beyond.	£8,875
32nd Greenock & District Scout Group	Funding will part- fund an indoor climbing wall and a legacy in upper Greenock. Physical exertion and challenge are at the heart of mental health repair and this development will provide a platform for something new, something exciting and something to aspire to (reach the top). The project will engage with older teenagers, not part of any club or organisation, and those with drugs/alcohol issues to participate with the aim of reducing dependency. The climbing base will help improve physical fitness, particularly for those less likely to participate in sports, and support participants to maintain a good mental health balance.	£8,000

Year 2 Approvals (Round 1)

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Awarded
Ardgowan Hospice	The Mylife project will take an asset-based approach to addressing social isolation and loneliness and improving capacity to manage mental health by engaging with people with a life-limiting illness, their families and carers. The project will achieve this through a calendar of online and in-person events including activities, trips, short courses and ongoing group work available seven days a week. The patient-led nature of activity will dictate content around their skills and interests however it is anticipated that activity will include art, exercise classes, a book club or a choir.	£11,984

Branchton Community Centre	The project builds on activity funded in year 1 to consolidate the programme of classes, activities and relationship and offer more opportunities. This work specifically aims to increase participation, decrease social anxiety and increase confidence and happiness within the local community. The programme will provide a range of classes at low or no cost, thus alleviating current financial pressures including family friendly, budget cooking classes, talking groups and exercise classes. Branchton seek to encourage groups to become self-reliant where possible and encourage participation to build their confidence and continue to meet without participation from a tutor.	£20,000
Families Outside	This project seeks to support families affected by imprisonment to look after and improve their mental health and reduce their social isolation, helping to mitigate some of imprisonment's most damaging long-term impacts on mental health and wellbeing. Working from referrals, from local Regional Family Support Coordinator (RFSC) the project will provide tailored one-to-one support - including practical and emotional advice, guidance and advocacy. This can include help with practical matters (benefits, finance and housing), as well as more delicate issues (stigma, social isolation) and signposting to specialised support (substance misuse, addiction, domestic abuse, mental illness).	£9,989
Financial Fitness	CASH seeks to help 150 local people affected by mental ill health to improve and maintain better mental health, and their financial circumstances. Participants will benefit from a tailored/bespoke welfare benefit advice service providing 6 hours of "ring fenced" welfare benefit appointments every week, to help maximise household income, with subsequent help available to assist with ongoing financial problems. In addition, participants will access an in-house money/debt advice service and better-off-in-work advice service. Based on historic case work it is estimated that this support could generate a minimum of £200,000 worth of positive financial outcomes for participants.	£10,000
Greenock Morton Community Trust	Breakfast and a Blether continues support provide in year 1 allowing Inverclyde residents the opportunity to attend Cappielow Park each Wednesday for a hot breakfast and peer support, and access to walk and talks to increase physical activity levels and improve physical health alongside mental health. The project seeks to reduce loneliness, and isolation and support individuals to become more connected to support and opportunities within their communities. Activities are delivered in partnership with other community organisations which in the past has included Your Voice, Moving On and local care.	£11,500

Home-Start Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	This Wellbeing programme will continue work funded in year 1 and work to improve the mental health and reduce social isolation and loneliness experienced by at risk groups. Funding will contribute towards the salary costs to enable the delivery of intensive wellbeing support within the local community involving regular home visits to a caseload of families over 11 months. In addition, activity will involve weekly delivery of 'New to Scotland' and 'Dads' Groups. These group sessions are supported by peer-to-peer volunteers who receive regular wellbeing support and supervision in a further expansion of beneficiaries to this project.	£20,000
Kidron Project	The Life Skills Programme will deliver additional life skills and wellbeing activities through funding for a Life Skills Development Worker. Their remit is to reduce social isolation and help the adult population of Inverclyde to improve and look after their mental health through Life Ready Coaching, Money Course Coaching and Peer Support coordination. Courses will be available at a range of community venues and delivered in partnership with other local organisations including Home Start Inverclyde, Inverclyde Faith in Throughcare, Stepwell and local schools.	£19,700
Lyle Gateway	This project involves funding of a young person as a Community Development Worker in order to help adults with experience of prison to feel more included and accepted and to help the over 65s feel less lonely and isolated. The support available will be varied and can include providing healthy low-cost food, social inclusion, sign posting to other organisations, improving mobility and mental health through exercise with a focus on fall prevention and increased movement confidence.	£8,000
Man On Inverclyde	Early Intervention and Crisis Support is a continuation project which seeks to promote good mental health and wellbeing and provide an accessible response to distress including those with thoughts of suicide. This project will grow this peer support model, delivering the majority of support from their wellbeing hub in Greenock including expansion of free, group and individuals' services. Continuation funding will support the costs of additional wellbeing staff, and volunteer coordinators, and marketing.	£20,000
MindMosaic Counselling and Therapy	This continuation project, Building Better Health and Wellbeing builds on work funded in year 1 to improve emotional and psychological wellbeing and increase access to specialist information and knowledge of trauma responses across Inverclyde. Activity will involve one to one and group based work and include expansion of provision from our Trauma Resource Centre to help people support themselves towards recovery, and delivery of a Everyday Mindfulness across a range of localities to help people develop the tools to support their mental health.	£18,600

Moving on Inverclyde	Digital Connections for Long Term Recovery is a partnership with Access Technology Scotland to deliver a digital access programme of reduce isolation and improve the mental wellbeing of those in recovery from substance misuse. The programme will offer 4 strands of activity; digital skills, digital detectives, digital platform content and creation and sound production course. The project seeks to directly engage with 50 individuals directly although activity will support many others through access to what is created.	£10,000
Parklea Branching Out	The Community Inclusion Programme expands on Parklea’s work to build on the success of inclusive community based creative classes and workshops. This work aims to help more people with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities access to new opportunities that is accessible and within their local community. Weekly classes and seasonal group programme and workshops will take place in accessible venues including multi sports sessions, community dance classes, drama classes, digital inclusion, gardening activities and health walks. Activities will be delivered in partnership with Community Learning and Development – Health Improvement, Adult Literacies, Morton in the Community, TAG, PBO’s Volunteers, Port Glasgow Parish Church.	£10,000
Safe Harbour Inverclyde	Safe Harbour Lighthouse has been informed by service user feedback and provide a range of additional, softer interventions to support individuals and families experiencing emotionally chaotic lifestyles, often due to long term mental health issues, poverty and trauma. This new programme will offer telephone support and outreach practitioner support, befriending, and delivery of wellbeing therapeutic sessions. This work is anticipated to help participants build emotional resilience to self-manage issues (trauma, domestic abuse, phobias, loss, isolation, exclusion), and reduce social isolation and challenge exclusion arising from poverty, poor health and education within poorer communities across Inverclyde.	£20,000
Teen Challenge	Let’s Connect seeks to help adults who experience addiction or homelessness to reduce loneliness and social isolation, and assist those with low self esteem and experiencing self-neglect to increase their quality of life and enhance their wellbeing and personal experience. Activities will primarily be delivered from Greenock Hub and provide opportunities to meet the needs of local people through a Family Support Worker and team of volunteers.	£9,980

<p>Inverclyde Community Care Forum (Your Voice)</p>	<p>Building Resilient and Supportive Communities seeks to increase resilience and networks of support in Inverclyde and specifically work to ensure that women feel safer and have improved mental health and wellbeing. Three areas of delivery which help achieve these outcomes; Recovery and Arts working with people in recovery from alcohol and drug misuse to engage in sessions with a Culture Collective Artist; Women’s Wellbeing and Safety will work with partners to deliver martial arts and encourage participation in Walk and Talk and Reclaim Our Streets Initiatives; & Building.</p> <p>Building and Improving Mental Health & Wellbeing through peer support networks.</p>	<p>£15,682</p>
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Further Information:

- Find out about the impact some of the organisations made in year 1 of the fund on Inverclyde Life: <https://inverclydelife.com/community-spotlight>



Report To: Inverclyde Alliance Board **Date:** 13 March 2023

Report By: Louise Long, Chief Executive,
Inverclyde Council &
Chair of LOIP Programme
Board **Report No:**

Contact Officer: Morna Rae, Service Manager
Corporate Policy,
Performance and
Partnerships, Inverclyde
Council **Contact No: 07385 434459**

Subject: Local Outcome Improvement Plan Progress Report November 2022 to
January 2023

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the LOIP Programme Board with a progress report on the implementation of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 This report provides details of the progress made between November 2022 to January 2023 in implementing the priorities within the LOIP.

2.2 This report provides an update on progress in the four priority areas of the LOIP:

- Population
- Local Economy
- Inequalities
- Environment, Culture and Heritage

2.3 Progress has been made in the last quarter and some of the highlights include:

The Population Partnership have undertaken significant partnership working in relation to the Ukrainian refugee dispersal. A fortnightly meeting - Inverclyde Asylum Dispersal, Ukraine and Refugee Operational Group has been set up by the HSCP.

The Inverclyde Taskforce has been formed. To date there have been three meetings of the Taskforce supported by an officer group series of meetings. The Local Employability Partnership and the Economy Groups have both been refocused. The Economy Group will be expanded to concentrate on the ambitions of the Taskforce through the inclusion of local business representatives.

The Inequalities Partnership are aiding the implementation of a new Scottish Government funded Affordable Childcare pilot. This pilot is progressing in Port Glasgow and will operate until 31 March whereby a full evaluation will be submitted to Scottish Government.

The Environment Partnership have overseen Sustrans approve the Green Connections bid for the Greenock Central Link and Lady Octavia Park. The design options appraisal stage is due to have

been completed by 3rd February 2023. Your Voice Inverclyde has designed and distributed the community survey for Lady Octavia.

The Cultural Partnership have overseen Inverclyde Libraries win the Scottish Library and Information Council's Project of the Year Award for their involvement in the Climate Beacon's work.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Programme Board:

- a. Notes the progress update, and
- b. Agrees that an amended version of this report is considered by the March Alliance Board.

**Morna Rae, Service Manager
Corporate Policy,
Performance and Partnerships, Inverclyde Council**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Inverclyde's LOIP was formally agreed by the Alliance Board on the 11th of December 2017. This progress report provides details of the progress that has been made in implementing the LOIP during the period November 2022 to January 2023.
- 4.2 Oversight and delivery of the LOIP priorities sits with the:
- Population and Economy Partnership
 - Inequalities Partnership
 - Environment Partnership
 - Cultural Partnership
- 4.3 This report provides updates on the progress made across all priorities in the last three-month period. The following flash reports are appended to this report:
- Population Partnership Appendix 1
 - Economic Partnership Appendix 2
 - Inequalities Partnership Appendix 3
 - Environment Partnership Appendix 4
 - Cultural Partnership Appendix 5

5.0 PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

5.1 Population Partnership Update

Under the ***Develop the Inverclyde Brand*** workstream, activity continues to be broadly in line with plan.

Within the ***Create Sustainable Communities, Primarily Through the Housing Offer*** workstream the key highlights are as follows:

- The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2023-2028 was approved by the Environment & Regeneration Committee. This includes a full programme of affordable housing development proposals over the next five years.
- The town centre master planning activity for both Greenock and Port Glasgow is rated amber based on project delay. A report for the Greenock Town Centre study will be shared with the Environment & Regeneration Committee in March 2023. A paper on the Port Glasgow review will be presented following the summer recess.
- There is excellent progress with the development of the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) Resident and community consultation was undertaken in the Autumn and a successful Conference event was conducted in November 2022. Activity is on track to deliver the LHS by the end of March 2023.

The key highlights within the ***Deliver a Net Inward Migration*** workstream include:

- Significant partnership working continues in relation to the demands of the Ukrainian refugee dispersal. The Inverclyde Asylum Dispersal, Ukraine and Refugee Operational Group meets fortnightly.
- There are approx. 130 Ukrainians living across Inverclyde through various schemes; and approx. 60 asylum seekers living in hotel accommodation.

- Local social landlords are providing details of available units to enable matching of people to properties.

There is no current letting capacity pressure for RSLs in Inverclyde to accommodate current/potential Inverclyde tenants as well as new people coming to Inverclyde. In addition to housing consideration, health, social care, education, and wider support capacity is subject to ongoing review.

Appendix 1 contains more detail across each workstream.

5.2 Local Economy Partnership Update

The Local Economy Partnership Group has continued to meet and consider the actions against the updated plan.

- The team continue to support businesses in relation to their property. To date the team have supported nine businesses, with a variety of property improvements, a further six companies have offer letters issued to them.
- In relation to employability performance has continued to improve from the difficult year of 2020/21. The tender has been concluded and contracts finalised for the 2022/23 and client delivery is progressing well across the four service providers against the contracted target figures.
- Job vacancies continue to be advertised locally and shared with local employability partners under the Inverclyde Works branding. Currently employment statistics are positive however these need to be treated with some caution as the job opportunities are only for job ready clients and those furthest from the labour market with barriers to employment need support.
- A significant number of Inverclyde organisations are accessing workforce development opportunities from short one day training initiatives to bespoke upskilling courses. Over 240 wage incentives have been issued. We have 34 long term unemployed clients, 23 Large Goods Vehicle clients, 20 graduate placements and two traineeships.
- The Council continues to progress well with this years' Modern Apprenticeship positions and continues to support those from previous years and those who are post qualification. Following the conclusion of a number of apprenticeships there are currently 69 apprentices "in programme". The composition of the 50 new apprenticeships are ten clients in business admin, two clients in waste management, one client in vehicle mechanics, one client in vehicle stores, one client in stores at the centre for independent living, 14 clients in horticulture, one school craft technician, and 20 clients in childcare.
- The Inverclyde Taskforce has been formed. To date there have been three meetings of the Taskforce supported by an officer group series of meetings. The Local Employability Partnership and the Economy Groups have both been refocused. The Economy Group will be expanded to concentrate on the ambitions of the Taskforce through the inclusion of local business representatives.
- Following the announcement by Amazon that they plan to close the Gourrock Fulfilment Centre there has been work via PACE (Partnership Action for Continuing Employment) to provide support and advice for those facing redundancy, as well as discussions via the Taskforce at a Ministerial level.

The bid to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund to transform the heart of Greenock Town Centre was successful. This will create new civic spaces, a restructured more outward-looking town centre retail offer, improve links between various parts of the town centre and the waterfront and build in capacity for a potential new education/college facility or town centre housing.

5.3 Inequalities Partnership Update

There has been progress within the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership:

- MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) Implementation continues with evidence base of SOPs, datasheets and experiential learning templates being completed as per Scottish Government requirements. Same day prescribing is available Monday to Friday. Choice of treatment is being offered and there is waiting time compliance.
- The recruitment of Support Officer and Information Analyst posts are underway to support requirements into Scottish Government to produce reports and evidence progress against outcomes.

There has been a range of updates relating to Poverty:

- Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action report is currently in its 4th year of delivery providing a focus for children and families in relation to cost of living, income from employment and income from social security and engaging those with lived experience.
- Inverclyde Council and IJB has provided more than £1.8 million to support a range of local initiatives and projects to mitigate poverty and support the local community with the current cost of living crisis.
- The Inverclyde Financial Inclusion Strategy has been approved by Inverclyde Alliance in December 2022. The ongoing action plan will be implemented through the Financial Inclusion Partnership.

In relation to Active Inverclyde:

- An implementation group has been established, consisting of stakeholder such as local clubs and organisations, HSCP, Inverclyde Leisure, Inverclyde Council, sportscotland and some local young sport leaders.
- The implementation group has to consider the priority actions which will form the basis of an action plan. The action plan has been drafted and is now with management for approval.

There has been progress surrounding Mental Health, Wellbeing and Social Isolation:

- The Health Improvement Team are linking with third sector partners to promote improvements in physical and mental health.
- The Thrive Under Five nutritional plan is being developed.
- The development of the Stigma Training Programme continues. The first e-learning module is currently being developed.
- 10 organisations have received their Bereavement Charter Mark, currently the HSCP and Inverclyde Council, IRH and Larkfield View Nursing Home are in progress.

5.4 Environment Partnership Update

The Environment Partnerships focus has been the establishment of the Green Connections projects. The design option appraisal is almost due for completion as is the initial community engagement.

In addition to this the Peatland Project Officer for the Clyde Peatland project has been appointed and so the actions in the feasibility study can soon be implemented. Levelling Up funding has also been announced and this will help deliver across a number of our priorities.

There has also been positive action under the climate change activity as a paper was presented to the Council recommending support for the Edinburgh Declaration signalling their commitment to

deliver transformative actions in order to achieve the aims and ambitions set out in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The climate change action however remains amber as more still needs to be done collectively to address this issue. It was agreed that this will be a standing item across all LOIP priority partnerships to raise its profile.

5.5 Cultural Partnership Update

Members will note that the Heritage Strategy has a RAG status of amber (slight slippage). This is mainly down to Covid. Heritage Fund funding streams were open only to emergency Covid funding through most of 2020 and 2021 and the bulk of the Strategy Action Plan is to be funded through funding bids.

The Galoshans Festival, now in its 8th year, was delivered from 21st-31st October 2022. During the 10 days of the festival there were over 30 overall programming strands, 27 performances, two exhibitions and 46 other public events which were successfully received.

The first digital Community Voices exhibition was trialled and preparation work for new shows for 2023 in the Watt Hall 'Clydebuilt' and Art Gallery 'Language of Dreams' has begun in the Watt Institution.

The Beacon celebrated its 10th Birthday with the RSNO's performance of its Viennese Gala on January 15th 2023 – a full and interesting programme of performances and community participatory activities have been planned for this celebratory year.

The independent evaluation of the Inverclyde Culture Collective is complete and covers first 18 months of activity April 2021 – September 2022. The report provides a base line for the impact of arts & culture in Inverclyde and a further report will be produced August 2023.

Inverclyde Libraries were successful in winning Scottish Library and Information Councils Project Excellence Award 2022 (in recognition of the libraries' input to the Climate Beacons project).

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Legal: none at present
- Finance: none at present
- Human Resources: none at present
- Equality and Diversity: none at present
- Repopulation: repopulation remains a key priority within the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan.
- Inequalities: the Locality Partnerships will be working specifically to tackle inequalities on a geographic basis.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 N/A

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 N/A

Population Partnership Flash Report

APPENDIX 1

November – January 2023
Lead Officer – Richard Turnock

Area of Activity	Where are we now	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG status		
<p>Develop the Inverclyde Brand</p> <p><i>Position Inverclyde as the place to visit, work and live.</i></p>	<p>Significant progress has been made, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Discover Inverclyde’ branding and website and social media presence (e.g. Business Gateway Inverclyde now on Facebook) • Successful Marketing and promotion activity and events (including housing engagement event) • Towns and Villages being supported to develop their presence through Recovery Plan funding • Greenock Ocean Terminal in progress. • Discover Inverclyde Tourism Partnership’ (new name) established group now looking to build engagement with sector. • Dedicated marketing team established. • STV advertising campaign launched. • Meliora festival created. 	<p>The ‘Discover Inverclyde’ theme is the default marketing brand for tourism and visitors and existing population.</p>	Continual enhancement of the marketing activity.	<p>Council has signed up to STEAM reports for the next three years to establish baseline figures for tourism development</p>	Ongoing	G		
			Investment in the promotion activities to build the Discover Inverclyde theme		Ongoing			
				<p>The Discover Inverclyde website is considered the main, trusted reliable source of what to do in Inverclyde.</p>	Create a new Discover Inverclyde marketing toolkit	<p>Measure participation rates by local businesses and venues</p>	<p>Currently being reviewed as part of business engagement and a new refreshed tourism strategy action plan has been developed (with a report to Policy and Resources Committee on 31 January 2023)</p>	G
					Drive use of marketing toolkit, promoting the Discover Inverclyde theme,			Measure attendance at events and participation rates
				<p>Inverclyde is considered not only a tourist destination but also a place to work and live.</p>	Enhance social media presence, including marketing out with Inverclyde.	Measure hits/reach/retweets etc.	Social media dedicated to Discover Inverclyde theme in place and being actively promoted.	G
					Partnership working including Visit Scotland, Scottish Tourism Alliance + other local authorities.	Ongoing tracking by Discover Inverclyde Tourism Partnership	Ongoing. LOIP now includes Visit Scotland representation. Seeking more private sector partner involvement Meetings of local partnership group currently on hold due to lack of attendance by private sector partners – plans to renew in 2023 based on focussed themes.	G
					Deliver targeted marketing strategy (inc. TV, Discover Scotland Expo.)	Focus on 22/23 initiatives, inc. food and drink; film and TV; outdoor activities, sports, cruise ships, heritage and walking	Delivery of cruise seminars and targeted promotion of outdoor activities is now complete.	G

Area of Activity	Where are we now	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG status
<p>Create Sustainable Communities, primarily through the housing offer</p> <p><i>Address the private and social housing requirements, helping retain and attract new people to the area</i></p>	<p>Significant progress has been made, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of a review of private housing land supply Plans to deliver > 1,000 new social housing units (> 50% completion to date) Ongoing work on the Eastern Gateway Opportunities Preparatory work on Town Centre Plans for Port Glasgow and Greenock Town Centre 	<p>Short to medium term Delivery of a private and social housing solution that provides retention and attraction of new families to Inverclyde.</p>	Delivery of Private Housing New build.	<p>This is addressed through the Local Development Plan/SHIP.</p> <p>Regular measurement against planned progress for both private and social housing plans.</p>	<p>Revised SHIP approved at January 2023 Environment & Regeneration Committee.</p>	G
			Delivery of Social Housing New build.			G
			Consideration of appropriate incentives (e.g. Lower council tax, subsidised nursery, leisure facilities etc.)	Uptake in any available funding		Ongoing
		Develop New Local Housing Strategy	LHS Development aimed for March 2023.	LHS Development Conference held in Nov 2022.	G	
		Progress Local Development Plan			Informed by changes to Scottish national planning Framework	Ongoing
		Progress Port Glasgow Town Centre Plan	Inverclyde Council/ Committee governance + partner input	Paper to Environment & Regeneration Committee anticipated after summer recess.	A	
		Progress Greenock Town Centre Plan			Paper due to be presented to the Environment & Regeneration Committee in March 2023.	A
		Consider other wider opportunities for regeneration and ad hoc projects.	Measures include e.g. utilisation of strategic acquisition funding (Rental Off the Shelf funding) plus any other transformational funding.	Ongoing	G	
		Partnership working with appropriate lobbying activity.			G	

Area of Activity	Where are we now	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG status
<p>Deliver a net inward migration</p> <p><i>Create a net flow of population through strategic initiatives</i></p>	<p>Key achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various resettlement Schemes have enabled immigration from Afghanistan and Syria in particular. 37 new families now housed and settled within Inverclyde 	<p>Ensure that Inverclyde is considered as a location of choice for future New Scots.</p> <p>Ensure we attract and retain families who settle in Inverclyde</p> <p>Net inward migration not only about New Scots (other population inflow predominately via supported by wider Repopulation initiatives).</p>	<p>Ongoing collaboration between Inverclyde Alliance partners (HSCP News Scots Team + Social landlords + Education etc. Partnership working with the Scottish Refugee Council/UK Government</p> <p>Support the resettlement of an additional 16 families through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) by March 2022.</p> <p>Asist the acclimatization, supporting the enhancement of language skills and finding work, thus enabling rapid self-sufficiency and social integration in our communities.</p>	<p>Measure the extent of both initial and sustained settlement within Inverclyde.</p> <p>Ongoing delivery of any commitment to Scottish Refugee Council/ Scottish Government.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>As at Jan 20203, there are approx. 130 Ukrainians living across Inverclyde through various schemes; and approx. 60 asylum seekers living in hotel accommodation.</p>	<p>G</p> <p>G</p>
		<p>Partnership collaboration to ensure successful dispersal of Ukrainian refugees. This includes provision of private and social housing (existing voids) together with short term accommodation e.g. hotels.</p>	<p>Partnership collaboration to ensure successful dispersal of Ukrainian refugees. This includes provision of private and social housing (existing voids) together with short term accommodation e.g. hotels.</p>	<p>Meet the demands of dispersal within Inverclyde</p>	<p>Multi agency approach is ongoing.</p>	<p>G</p>
		<p>Funding of two new temporary employment roles to address retention challenges associated with Young people and Ukrainian refugees. Posts likely to be established within Inverclyde Council and Scottish Refugee Council.</p>	<p>Funding of two new temporary employment roles to address retention challenges associated with Young people and Ukrainian refugees. Posts likely to be established within Inverclyde Council and Scottish Refugee Council.</p>	<p>Successful appointment and delivery of respective remits of both roles.</p>	<p>Job descriptions are in development. Initial discussions have taken place on how these roles will best fit within current and planned provision to avoid duplication.</p>	<p>G</p>

Economy Partnership Flash Report

APPENDIX 2

November – January 2023

Lead Officer – Stuart Jamieson

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Promote business starts	Tripartite business gateway contract	Inverclyde business start-ups exceed the wider Renfrewshire rate	Promotion of Services	Annual review	Progress has followed the positive trend of the 2 years with 150 starts to date	G
Property development / assistance	We want to ensure that premises are available both to indigenous companies and incoming businesses	Premises are available to suit a variety of different needs	Promotion of available properties through property searches and assistance in works	Reduce number of voids	The team continue to support businesses in relation to their property. To date the team have supported 9 businesses.	G
Employability	Inverclyde Council and partners ensure that effective IREP engagement takes place.	Better engagement	Regular meetings and partnership working	Effective engagement amongst partners	The Local Employability Partnership has been meeting on a monthly basis from the start of the year and a draft 3 year Delivery Plan has been produced. Following the announcement by Amazon that they plan to close the Gourock Fulfilment Centre there has been work via PACE (Partnership Action for Continuing Employment) to provide support and advice for those facing redundancy, as well as discussions via the Taskforce.	G
Employability Pipeline	Inverclyde Council has 4 employability contracts to deliver end-to end pipeline activity.	Impact of Covid and other factors reduced to ensure maximum opportunities for all.	Contract delivery on an annual basis	Contract monitoring	Performance has continued to improve from the difficult year of 2020/21. The tender has been concluded and contracts finalised for the 2022/23. 4 contracts have been awarded for 2022/23. Performance for the final quarter resulted in full contract spend. Contract performance is satisfactory	G
Jobs Recovery Plan	Programme commenced in April 2021	Full delivery of programme by April 2023	Deployment of comprehensive Jobs Recovery Programme	Regular reporting to Committee and Alliance.	Job Recovery Plan continues to progress well. Job vacancies continue to be advertised locally and shared with local employability partners under	G

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
					the Inverclyde Works branding. Over 240 wage subsidies have been issued.	
Workforce Development	Skills gaps exist within the workforce	Skills gaps has been removed from workforce	Engagement and delivery of programmes to ensure the workforce becomes more productive and efficient	Delivery of programmes Regular monitoring	A significant number of Inverclyde organisations are accessing workforce development opportunities from short one day training initiatives to bespoke upskilling courses. A primary support is our Flexible Workforce Development Fund which is available for both SMEs and larger employers to upskill and reskill their workforce to meet changing organisational needs. To date the College has delivered over £500k worth of employee led training across the West Region covering a range of organisations from across the public, private and third sector who have had a demand for skills development in: Leadership and Management Masterclasses, Digital and IT skills enhancement, Mental Health Awareness, Health and Safety, Coaching and Development training, and British Sign Language.	G
Modern apprentices	West College Scotland and Inverclyde Council deliver modern apprenticeship programmes	Modern apprenticeships programmes are maximised for client use	Regular liaison within IREP	Regular reporting on modern apprenticeship numbers	The Council continues to progress well with this years' MA positions and continues to support those from previous years and those who are post qualification. The council currently have 69 apprentices in programme.	G

Inequalities Partnership Flash Report

November to January 2023
Lead Officer – Allen Stevenson

APPENDIX 3

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Alcohol and Drugs Lead officer Anne Malarkey	Drug use is one of the leading causes of death and ill health in the most deprived parts of Inverclyde	Inverclyde is a Place Where Less Harm is Caused by alcohol and drug use.	Delivery of the ADP priorities and recovery strategy Contribute to the review of the Inverclyde Licensing policy	Outcomes reported to ADP Committee Reduction in deaths Reduction in associated ill health Reduction in associated hospital admissions	<p>MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) Implementation continues with evidence base of SOPs, datasheets and experiential learning templates being completed as per Scottish Government requirements. Same day prescribing is available Monday to Friday. Choice of treatment is being offered and there is waiting time compliance.</p> <p>The recruitment of Support Officer and Information Analyst posts are underway to support requirements into Scottish Government to produce reports and evidence progress against outcomes.</p> <p>The Liaison Team secured 5 year funding to continue roll out of assertive outreach model.</p> <p>Naloxone roll out continues as part of a wider harm reduction programme.</p> <p>The ADP Spending Plan is complete.</p> <p>The alcohol pathway and needs assessment was developed in partnership.</p> <p>There has been an increase in resource and change model for Blood Borne Virus testing and treatment.</p> <p>Initial reporting from Early Help in Police Custody test of change has been received.</p> <p>In relation to the Residential Rehabilitation Referral Pathway recruitment to posts is in progress.</p>	G

<p>Poverty Child poverty Fuel poverty Financial inclusion Food poverty Lead Officer Craig Given/ Tony McEwan</p>	<p>Inverclyde has the most deprived SIMD area in Scotland.</p>	<p>Levels of poverty in Inverclyde are reduced.</p>	<p>Partnership working to improve employment opportunities, maximize household income Review and deliver new financial inclusion strategy.</p>	<p>Outcome reporting on Child Poverty Action Plan. Outputs and contract monitoring from commissioned services e.g. Iheat Evidence delivery of council anti-poverty programmes.</p>	<p>Between October 2021 and September 2022 there were 34,700 economically active residents between the age of 16 – 64 living in Inverclyde, of those, 76.6% were in employment compared to Scotland's figure of 74.4%. 1,300 (3.4%) residents between of 16 – 64 years were unemployed. Scotland's figure was 3.5%. Based on data collected by DWP and HMRC, the percentage of children in households below 60% median, before housing costs in Inverclyde is 17.6% in Inverclyde.</p> <p>Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action report is currently in its 4th year of delivery providing a focus for children and families in relation to Cost of Living, Income from Employment and Income from Social Security and Engaging those with lived experience. https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/assets/attach/15225/5362-Child-local-poverty-action-report-22.pdf</p> <p>This person centered, place based approach to Child Poverty has created an opportunity for Inverclyde to become an early adopter community for Affordable Childcare by Scottish Government. This pilot is progressing in Port Glasgow and will operate until 31 March whereby a full evaluation will be submitted to Scottish Government.</p> <p>Inverclyde Council and IJB has provided more than £1.8 million to support a range of local initiatives and projects to mitigate poverty and support the local community with the current cost of living crisis. These initiatives include; enhanced criteria to the doubling of the Scottish Government child payment, support for males living in the most deprived data zones to increase their employability and employment opportunities, mitigating food insecurity by establishing two local pantries, supporting local foodbanks and community organisations to open and support communities with food and fuel vouchers. All the Anti Poverty initiatives and any additional projects to mitigate poverty are reported to each Policy and Resources Committee for progress updates.</p> <p>The Inverclyde Financial Inclusion Strategy has been approved by Inverclyde Alliance in December 2022. The ongoing action plan will be implemented through the Financial Inclusion Partnership.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Active Inverclyde Lead Officer Tony McEwan</p>	<p>Inverclyde residents are less likely to be active than those in the rest of NHSGGC and</p>	<p>The people of Inverclyde are more active and maintain activity throughout</p>	<p>Work in partnership with Inverclyde Leisure, NHSGGC health improvement</p>	<p>Evidence delivery of outcomes associated with Active Inverclyde Strategy. Decrease in ill health associated with low levels of activity will be</p>	<p>An Implementation Group has been established, consisting of stakeholders such as local clubs and organisations, HSCP, Inverclyde Leisure, Inverclyde Council, sportscotland and some local young sport leaders. The implementation group has met to consider the priority actions which will form the basis of an action plan. The action plan has been drafted and is now with management for approval. It is the intention to move forward with the action plan following approval with an Implementation Group meeting pencilled in for February with view of raising awareness to wider stakeholders thereafter.</p>	<p>A</p>

	Scotland as a whole.	the life course.	services, local third sector.	evidenced in local health needs assessment.			
Mental wellbeing & social isolation Lead Officer Alan Best/ Charlene Elliot	Post Covid services continue to support our community through mainstream services	People of Inverclyde are supported to reconnect socially and emotionally .	Utilise recovery money, Public Mental health recovery funding and Wellbeing fund monies Develop suicide prevention plan Develop Inverclyde cares movement. Community Link workers in GP practices.	Reported outcomes from associated funding streams. Self-reported outcomes from upcoming NHSGGC Health & Wellbeing Survey. What Matters to You Survey Care Opinion Feedback.	<p>The Health Improvement Yeam are linking with third sector partners to promote improvements in physical and mental health.</p> <p>The Thrive Under Give nutritional plan is being developed</p> <p>The New Scots Team are supporting Ukrainian nationals and dispersal accommodation for Asylum Seekers on behalf of the COSLA and The UK Home office</p> <p>Development of the Stigma Training Programme continues. The first e-learning module is currently being developed. Funded via the NHSGGC Healthy Minds Anti-Stigma Fund, the module explores the stigma people from ethnic minorities and New Scots experience. The resource is being co-created with people in the community who have experience of this type of stigma and will be available to test mid-March 2023.</p> <p>10 organisations have received their Bereavement Charter Mark, currently the HSCP and Inverclyde Council, IRH and Larkfield View Nursing Home are in progress. The No One Grieves Alone festival potential dates are 17th-24th April 2023. 2 artists have been recruited and will develop artwork around bereavement and things we keep when someone dies. The Inverclyde Bereavement Network has been established. The winner of a poster presentation at the Bereavement Education Annual Conference in November 2022 was 'The Bereavement Charter Mark for Employers – a pilot in Inverclyde'.</p> <p>The Kindness Award was launched 13 November 2022. To date, 145 awards have been distributed. 10 organisations have received bronze award and one has achieved silver (CVS Inverclyde).</p> <p>The Covid Community Memorial Remembering Together Phase 1 is almost complete and phase 2 will commence by March 2023.</p>		G

Environment Partnership Flash Report

APPENDIX 4

November to January 2023
Lead Officer – Kerry Wallace

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Connectivity	It is currently difficult for Inverclyde residents to engage in active travel with gaps in provision and poor infrastructure.	There will be an increase in the number of Inverclyde residents who take part in walking and cycling for everyday journeys and recreation.	<p>Improve cycle paths and walking routes through the development of:</p> <p>Active Travel Strategy (complete 2018 and adopted by council – delivery of action plan in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed Green Connections project (by 2025) 	Statistics from Community Tracks; and Statistics from Bike Bothy.	<p>Levelling Up funding has been awarded to Greenock Central of £19,390,00 for a transformational Town Centre Regeneration Project seeking to address fundamental place-based challenges created by the negative legacy of roads infrastructure and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demolish the elevated A78 dual-carriageway that currently runs through the town centre, along with 40% of the existing Oak Mall retail space to remove severance and associated negative place perceptions, adverse environmental quality, rebalance retail space requirements and put the ‘heart ‘ back into the town centre. - Replace with a new high quality urban public realm, based around public squares and greenspace animated by activity created by mixed-use development, with priority given to pedestrian movement, place-making, and opportunities for follow-on investment. - The elevated A78 trunk road will be replaced by an at-grade street with full active travel integration, remodelled as an urban signalised junction incorporating pedestrian / cycle crossings. 	A
Healthier Lifestyles	Only four in ten (39%) adults met the current physical	Those living in the most deprived localities in Inverclyde will be more physically active and enjoy improved wellbeing	Establish links between health and environment	HSCP attend Environment Partnership and	The Green Connections project is undertaking the design options appraisal stage which is due to have been	

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
	<p>activity recommendations and just over a third (35%) of secondary school pupils meet the target of taking 60 minutes or more of physical activity on five or more days per week. (Inverclyde Child and Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey 2013).</p>		<p>professionals - Develop green gyms, community growing.</p> <p>Community food growing. Establish an Environmental Network</p>	<p>Environment network.</p> <p>Inverclyde Life could be a digital platform to raise awareness of opportunities in which communities and individuals can become involved in.</p>	<p>completed by 3rd February. Your Voice Inverclyde has designed the community survey for Lady Octavia to Greenock Town Centre, they have mailed it out and are promoting it on social media and holding community engagements events, all to be completed by 3rd February. The survey programme for Overton to Greenock Town Centre has started, to be completed by 3rd March. The Preliminary Design Stage will begin the following week with key stakeholder events.</p>	A
Land Use and Management	<p>The percentage of derelict land increased from 17% to 51% in 2016. 80% of the increase in derelict land related to two large sites, the Former Inverkip Power Station site and Valley Park, Spango Valley.</p>	<p>Inverclyde residents will have access to good quality and multifunctional greenspace close to where they live (the importance of this priority has been heightened as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown)</p> <p>Derelict land will be transformed in key communities to provide multiple benefits for people and nature</p>	<p>Develop a Greenspace Strategy.</p>	<p>By periodically measuring the number of people within a 5 minute walk of a good quality useable greenspace (this is line with a new national indicator on access to greenspace).</p> <p>Performance measures: The number of people within 400m of quality green space.</p>	<p>See Green Connections update above. Greenspace Strategy is still on hold due to resource restrictions. Clyde Peatland Project Officer has successfully been recruited with likely start date of early April. This means that the actions identified from feasibility studies can be progressed.</p>	A

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Climate Change		Inverclyde's contribution to climate change will be well on its way to ending by 2045 and the transition to a just and net zero economy will be well established.	Inverclyde Council are developing a Carbon neutral/net zero strategy and from this we will identify actions we can take forward which is likely to include those actions we are already undertaking.		<p>A paper was presented to the Council recommending support for the Edinburgh Declaration signaling their commitment to deliver transformative actions in order to achieve the aims and ambitions set out in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.</p> <p>All CPP priorities to consider Net Zero and the climate and biological emergency in the work that they do.</p>	A

Cultural Partnership – Flash Report

November to January 2023
Lead Officer – Ruth Binks

Cultural Partnership - LOIP 10 Year Vision

- There will be increased attendance at cultural events and places of culture.

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Heritage Strategy	With funding from the Heritage Lottery, ICP commissioned developed, and published a Heritage Strategy for Inverclyde.	Partnership working to develop, enhance and deliver the strategy, building a network and legacy.	Funding bid to deliver elements of the Action Plan that cannot be delivered within existing resources.	Action plan priorities and objectives taken forward with identified outcomes being successfully implemented.	<p>Funds to procure a consultant to work up a funding bid (c. £250K) have been secured from Council recovery funding, and bid match funding has been secured from Council earmarked reserves. The procurement process has begun.</p> <p>Progress reports on this bid will be brought to future Programme Board/Alliance Board meetings.</p> <p>Inverclyde Heritage Network have continued with monthly talks on Zoom and blog posts on the IHN website with a variety of themes linked to Inverclyde. A date has been confirmed for 2023 Heritage Fair an opportunity to encourage more people to engage with local heritage, as Saturday 20th May 2023 at the Watt Institution.</p> <p>Members will note that the Heritage Strategy has a RAG status of amber (slight slippage). This is mainly down to Covid. Heritage Fund funding streams were open only to emergency Covid funding through most of 2020 and 2021 and the bulk of the Strategy Action Plan is to be funded through funding bids.</p>	A

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Arts and Creativity Strategy	<p>Inverclyde's Arts & Creativity Strategy launched in 2017 but did not contain an Action Plan to take the Strategy forward.</p> <p>Arts sub-group have developed an action plan to complement the Arts & Creativity Strategy.</p>	<p>Arts & Creativity Strategy and action plan being implemented with actions being delivered;</p> <p>Arts sub-group feeding in to overall Cultural Partnership and cultural delivery plan for the area.</p>	<p>Maintain regular meetings of the Arts & Creativity sub-group, ensuring representation across Inverclyde.</p>	<p>Meetings take place consistently and attendance by all partners remains high.</p> <p>Regular review of members of partnership.</p>	<p>Alliance Board approved the Arts Action Plan running alongside the Arts & Creativity Strategy on 14 June 2021.</p> <p>Inverclyde Council, in partnership with CVS Inverclyde, Beacon Arts Centre, RIG Arts, and Kayos Theatre Group successfully applied to Creative Scotland's 'Culture Collective' funding stream for £275K over 18m to assist with delivery of many of the aspirations on the Arts Action Plan and also Covid-19 recovery. The original Inverclyde Culture Collective (ICC) project runs from March 2021-September 2022, overseen by the ICC Steering Group and the Cultural Partnership. Reports on progress will be part of Cultural Partnership reporting as the project progresses.</p> <p>Culture Collective is now being extended until Sep 2023 with Inverclyde receiving a further £198,000 of funding from Creative Scotland.</p> <p>Activities carried out in this reporting period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Practice in Health and Social Care: Exploring Health, Illness, Disability and Long Term Conditions in Inverclyde Aniela Piasecka was selected to embark on a creative listening and response project working with, Port Glasgow Health Centre and the health improvement team to inquire and respond to themes of Health, Illness, Disability and Long Term Conditions in Inverclyde • Creative Practice in Health and Social Care Settings (Inverclyde Cares) "No One Grieves Alone" Research and Development Residency Responding to themes of loss, grief, or death as part of Inverclyde Cares 2023 "No One Grieves Alone" event programme. Steven Anderson and Laura Bradshaw have been commissioned for the work • Inverclyde Culture Collective first event "<i>Creative Connect</i>" took place on Tuesday 6th December - 2 more informal local artist networking events to happen • Next Call Outs being developed and soon to be advertised: <u>2023</u> 	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">G</p>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Front: Re-imagining Greenock High Street. Artist/Curator in Residence - Responding to the Highstreets/Town Centre - X2 Local Artist Development Strand - HSCP/Arts: Art Packs Test Pilot: Pathways and Communication – guided exposure to art resources working in partnership with HSCP/3rd Sector Partners / Artist to develop 'Art Packs' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inverclyde Culture Collective are seeking anti-racism training to be undertaken within 2023. <p>The independent evaluation of the Inverclyde Culture Collective is complete) and covers first 18 months of activity April 2021 – September 2022. The report provides a base line for impact of arts & culture in Inverclyde and a further report will be produced August 2023</p> <p>More Information can be found on the Inverclyde Culture Collective Website here: www.inverclydeculturecollective.co.uk/ and Instagram: www.instagram.com/inverclyde.culture.collective</p> <p>Remembering Together is a creative consultation for a co-created covid community memorial for Inverclyde.</p> <p>The last community engagement workshops are taking place throughout January 23. Evaluation of the data will be carried out in February23 and the final report of what the local community thinks best represents Inverclyde and its Covid experiences will be submitted in March'23 More information is available at: https://www.rememberingtogether.scot/inverclyde</p>	
Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status

Festivals and events	Develop calendar of current and emerging arts, culture & heritage festivals and events including those within individual communities.	Work to develop, create, deliver and support arts, culture & heritage events across Inverclyde, both by ICP members themselves, and by building capacity within communities. Effective use of public spaces and venues to support co-ordination of events.			<p><u>Galoshans 2022</u>: A consortium led by RIG Arts and CVS Inverclyde successfully received £83,441 from Creative Scotland and £4,000 from Event Scotland to run this year's festival. It was creatively produced by FERAL Arts. Total number of performances or days of exhibition: 10 days, over 30 overall programming strands, 27 performances, 2 exhibitions and 46 'other public events.</p> <p>In terms of numbers involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artists & Creative Practitioners: Estimate: 42 / Actual: 120 • Participants: Estimate: 448 / Actual: 1614 • Audiences: Estimate 4800 / Actual: 5778 • Online/Digital Audiences: Estimate: 600 / Actual: 600 Readers/Viewers/Listeners: Estimate: 320 / Actual: 170 (ongoing) • Overall: Estimate 6210 / Actual: 8282 <p>Light Up the Glen - 9th Dec'22 Inside Out - Inverclyde Culture Collective, Creative Scotland 363 people walked the Auchmountain Glen lit up and filled with art installations and elves. There were performances from Lily Carmen Smith- Playmobile and Christmas arts & crafts. George Wyllie's Monarch of the Auchmountain Glen posed as Rudolph for the evening and free hot drinks and snacks. Local volunteers from The Auchmountain Glen Project gritted pathways and helped secure the area.</p> <p>The Drying Green – 13th December Inverclyde Council Community Grants Fund A community Christmas Event RIG Arts in partnership with Inverclyde Council Libraries. Wreath Making, Card making, herbal balms, Carol Singing with The Clydeside Singers and hot soup by Rambling Recipes</p> <p>The Alternative Burns Supper Trail –The Alternative Burns Supper Trail is a precursor for Burns Night taking visitors on a creative, sensory walk through the natural landscape of Gourrock and Lunderston Bay.</p>	G
Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status

<p>Key Cultural Venues</p>	<p>Central Greenock has 2 major cultural venues: the Watt Institution, and the Beacon Arts Centre, and a third which will open in early 2023 - the Wyllie Gallery. Inverclyde's 6 public libraries also provide cultural spaces within communities.</p>	<p>All 4 centres are represented at the Cultural Partnership and will work together to maximize cultural opportunities for the people of, and visitors to, Inverclyde.</p>		<p>Each centre will report increasing visitor numbers.</p> <p>Cultural participation in Inverclyde will increase.</p>	<p>The <u>Watt Institution</u> continues to attract visitors to existing exhibitions guest curated by Dr Emma Bond of St Andrews University and the internationally acclaimed artist Alison Watt respectively. An exhibition featuring the Abolitionists who spoke against slavery in Greenock was launched as part of Black History Month. The Great Place Scheme 'Lockdown Life' exhibition exhibited. First digital Community Voices exhibition trialled and preparation work for new shows for 2023 in the Watt Hall 'Clydebuilt' and Art Gallery 'Language of Dreams' has begun. Work has also started to create a new, dedicated Egyptian gallery on site and a new dedicated digital exhibition space for use by the community. The Creativity Space has been officially launched. Work has begun to start of a programme of conservation assessments on the collection. Watt Institution presence on the Bloomberg Connects App has also been launched.</p> <p><u>The Beacon Arts Centre –</u> Highlights from the previous quarter include: a full and interesting programme of performances including local productions May Hughes Dance; Alba Ballet – The Nutcracker; Greenock Light Opera Club – Shrek!; The Gang Show; Greenock Players – The Sleeping Beauty Plus performances by Vincent Simone – Tango Passions, Marti Pellow – Pellow Talk, Jill Jackson and Beacon Jazz Club Creative Carbon Scotland launched its Springboard programme, attended by a number of local organisations. Filming of Annika – Series 2 concluded early December The Aladdin pantomime was a great success over the Christmas period.</p> <p><u>The Beacon celebrated its 10th Birthday with the RSNO's performance of its Viennese Gala on January 15th 2023.</u> Scheduled January performances are Bye Bye Baby, Beacon Jazz Club, Ashara – Jason Wilson Big Band, The Legends of American Country and the launch of Classical Concert Series</p> <p>The Beacon also hosted several participation opportunities including Beacon Youth theatre, Creatability, Platinum Dance, Beacon Art Group, Inverclyde women Create, Beacon Befriending. Beacon nominated by a parent of a Creatability participant for a Kindness Award.</p>	<p>G</p> <p>G</p>
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					<p><u>Inverclyde Libraries –</u> Highlights from the previous quarter include: Inverclyde Libraries have won the national Scottish Library and Information Councils Project Excellence Award 2022 (was announced on Oct 28th 2022). Central Library regularly offers afternoon movies as part of the Council’s Warm Had of Friendship initiative; PI Gifting took place in November with 710 P1 Bookbug bags gifted with 72% of Primary 1’s attending one of the 19 gifting session in the library with 509 children attending, 144 adults. A successful Book Week Scotland Programme: Death & Bereavement-themed storytelling and discussion event with storyteller Marion Kenny, and Ardgowan Hospice CEO, Graham Gardiner, at Central library. Local myths & legends event with storyteller Paul Bristow at Port Glasgow library with reminiscence group and public. Two Open Book shared reading events at Central library delivered by storyteller, poet and Open Book Lead Reader, Katharine Macfarlane. Story telling event with storyteller Gauri Raje- stories from India. 156 Children and 124 Adults attended the varied Christmas programme of events. This included Santa Singalong and Story sessions, crafting and Silent Discos and a co-created event with RIG arts at the Drying Green. Libraries continue to facilitate Community groups including the Carer’s Centre, Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland, and St Andrew’s First Aid providing community support within library branches</p>	
Climate Emergency	<p>The culture sector can contribute creatively to the challenges of climate change and climate justice.</p> <p>Inverclyde successfully bid to be a “Climate Beacon” with funding from Creative Carbon</p>	<p>The Inverclyde Climate Beacon will focus on the roles of climate change mitigation and adaptation as part of Inverclyde’s recovery from Covid.</p>	<p>The vision for the Climate Beacon is to produce and promote an exciting programme of activities to shape attitudes, concepts, and skills to help Inverclyde achieve carbon net</p>	<p>Partners jointly create or commission artistic work; engagement work; and development work to highlight the climate emergency and environmental issues.</p> <p>Awareness of climate issues is</p>	<p>Creative Carbon Scotland confirmed in June 2021 that Inverclyde would be 1 of 6 Scottish Climate Beacons and have provided c.£30K of funding to support the programme.</p> <p>This work is now complete and evaluated. Create Carbon Scotland announced in December a potential funding opportunity that to distribute to the Climate Beacon partnerships to fund further work -TBC. The first of the Creative Carbon Scotlands “SPRINGBOARD: local assemblies for creative climate action took place in the Beacon on 8th Nov 2022</p>	C

	<p>Scotland, in an application led by the Beacon Arts Centre and involving various cultural partners including Inverclyde Libraries, RIG Arts, Belville Community Garden amongst others.</p>		<p>zero. In the lead up to COP26, the project partners will host and present participatory, interactive and social events to engage local communities in discussions on climate change.</p>	<p>raised in Inverclyde.</p>		
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Challenges this quarter: Nov 2022 - Jan 2023

Visitor figures beginning to recover, however revenue income may take some time to increase back to pre-Covid levels.

Next steps Feb – April 2023:

Inverclyde’s cultural sector continues to offer exciting and low cost ways for communities and individuals to participate in arts, culture and heritage.



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date: 13 March 2023
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:
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Subject:	Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023-33	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the vision, themes and high level outcomes for the Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023-33 for approval.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 there is a statutory requirement for Community Planning Partnerships to produce a strategic plan that sets out its priorities for addressing local inequalities in partnership.

2.2 The previous Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan ran from 2017 to 2022, with an extension to 2023. There has been significant development work to prepare a new plan, including public consultation and a strategic needs assessment.

2.3 The proposed 2023-33 Partnership Plan for Inverclyde Alliance will have a vision of *Success For All – Getting It Right for Every Child, Citizen and Community* and will focus on the themes of Empowered People, Working People, Healthy People and Places, A Supportive Place, and a Thriving Place.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- a. Approves the vision, themes and high level outcomes for the 2023-33 Partnership Plan;
- b. Approves the review of the delivery structures and that the development of actions and performance indicators is remitted to the thematic groups;
- c. Agrees that the designed Partnership Plan materials are progressed and consulted upon with Alliance partners; and
- d. Agrees that the Action Plan and performance indicators are considered by the June 2023 meeting of the Alliance Board.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Inverclyde Alliance partners have been involved in the development of the new plan through Alliance Board agenda items, workshop discussions and one to one meetings with the Chair of the Alliance and Service Manager (Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships).

4.2 It was previously agreed the new plan should be long term in recognition of the nature of the issues it aims to address, and be focused on areas of added value for partnership working, in particular in relation to inequalities and climate change. It therefore will not cover the totality of all partnership working through the Alliance.

4.3 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires:

- The CPP to prepare and publish a local outcomes improvement plan (LOIP) which sets out the local outcomes which the CPP will prioritise for improvement;
- Tackling inequalities to be a specific focus;
- All partners to take account of these plans in carrying out their functions, and to contribute appropriate resources to improve the priority outcomes; and
- CPPs to support community bodies to participate in all parts of the process, in the development, design and delivery of plans and in review, revision and reporting of progress.

4.4 The development process for the Partnership Plan has included:

- A strategic needs assessment;
- Public consultation;
- Engagement with Inverclyde Elected Members;
- Consideration of statutory requirements and guidance;
- Discussion with Alliance partners; and
- Research on best practice.

4.5 The strategic needs assessment was discussed at the June 2022 Alliance meeting and is available via this [link](#). It includes a wide range of information about Inverclyde, including the population profile, overview of the economy, analysis of deprivation trends, statistics on health and environment related information. As well as giving a baseline against which we can measure progress through the implementation of the new plans the strategic needs assessment identifies issues that the Partnership Plan can aim to address.

4.6 Some of the issues highlighted include:

- An increasing concentration of older people within Inverclyde's communities, with the proportion of people aged 75+ set to increase by 55.5% over the next 20 years;
- An anticipated population reduction of 5% over the next 5 years, driven by there being fewer births than deaths;
- Emergency hospital admission and alcohol related hospital admission statistics being higher than Scottish average levels;
- Annual earnings at a lower level than the Scottish average;
- Significant deprivation issues with 45% of all data zones being in the 20% most deprived in Scotland; and
- Life expectancy for males and females sitting below Scottish average levels.

4.7 The consultation involved six different research methods over eight weeks of consultation. There were a total of 2801 participants. Partners will note that increasing employment and improving the quality of job opportunities was ranked highly across the different consultation methods and participants. The top themes were Employment and Jobs, Community, Young People, Health and Wellbeing, and Housing. The consultation report is available at Appendix 1.

4.8 Alliance partners contributed to workshop discussions in February on the proposed vision, themes and high level outcomes. This led to a number of amendments being made including changes in terminology and restructuring. Partners were generally very supportive of the content and could see their role in delivery. There was also discussion on the communication of the new Partnership Plan and the most effective delivery mechanisms through thematic groups.

4.9 The proposed vision is *Success For All – Getting It Right for Every Child, Citizen and Community* and the plan will focus on the themes of Empowered People, Working People, Healthy People and Places, A Supportive Place, and a Thriving Place. It will be a ten year plan. A mid term review will be undertaken.

4.10 The proposed high level outcomes are:

THEME 1: EMPOWERED PEOPLE

- Communities can have their voices heard, and influence the places and services that affect them
- Gaps in outcomes linked to poverty are reduced

THEME 2: WORKING PEOPLE

- More people will be in sustained employment, with fair pay and conditions
- Poverty related gaps are addressed, so young people can have the skills for learning, life and work
- Businesses are supported and encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint and develop green jobs

THEME 3: HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PLACES

- People live longer and healthier lives
- Supportive systems are in place to prevent alcohol and drug misuse
- Our natural capital is looked after, and we are effectively adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change

THEME 4: A SUPPORTIVE PLACE

- Vulnerable adults and children are protected and supported, ensuring they can live safely and independently
- We recognise where people are affected by trauma, and respond in ways that prevent further harm and support recovery
- Public protection and community safety are improved through targeting our resources to reduce the risk of offending and harm

THEME 5: A THRIVING PLACE

- Growth in our working age population by encouraging people to stay here, and attracting new people to settle here
- Development of strong community-based services that respond to local need
- Homes are energy efficient and fuel poverty is reduced
- Increased use of active travel and sustainable transport options
- Easy access to attractive and safe public spaces, and high-quality arts and cultural opportunities

4.11 The governance and delivery structures for the Alliance need to align to the priorities we are aiming to achieve. The number of delivery groups has been considered, mindful of the resources that they require to operate. A number of thematic groups are either statutorily required or guidance recommends that they sit within Community Planning structures. There are several existing groups within the Alliance structure that it is proposed are disbanded in order that new groups more closely aligned with the new Partnership Plan priorities can be created. These are the Population Partnership, Economy Partnership and Environment Partnership. It is also proposed that some existing groups are reshaped and new groups created. An updated Terms

of Reference and structure diagram is being developed and will be shared. This will include the membership and Chairs of the groups, the outcomes they are responsible for and how they will report into the Alliance.

4.12 It is proposed that the development of actions and performance indicators related to their outcomes is remitted to the thematic groups, with a combined action plan being brought back to the Alliance.

4.13 The current frequency of quarterly performance reports against the Partnership Plan outcomes will be maintained, along with an Annual Report.

4.14 Design work on the Partnership Plan is being undertaken. A package of materials is planned including a plan on a page, the strategy document, and infographics. These will be progressed and consulted upon with Alliance partners. We would also welcome support from partners on the ongoing promotion of the Partnership Plan, communication on what it means for Inverclyde and the difference we can make together.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that Inverclyde Alliance:

- a) Approves the vision, themes and high level outcomes for the 2023-33 Partnership Plan;
- b) Approves the review of the delivery structures and that the development of actions and performance indicators is remitted to the thematic groups;
- c) Agrees that the designed Partnership Plan materials are progressed and consulted upon with Alliance partners; and
- d) Agrees that the Action Plan and performance indicators are considered by the June 2023 meeting of the Alliance Board.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legal: This report supports the satisfaction of the statutory requirement upon the Alliance to produce a strategic plan.

Finance: There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. It is expected that Alliance partners will deliver on the Partnership Plan within existing and anticipated budgets.

Human Resources: There are no direct HR implications arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity: An Equality Impact Assessment on the Partnership Plan has been completed.

Repopulation: Growing Inverclyde's population is an outcome within the plan.

Inequalities: This plan aims to address inequalities in Inverclyde.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 There has been public consultation, as well as consultation with Inverclyde Elected Members and Alliance partners as outlined in the report.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None

Inverclyde Council and Partnership Plan Consultation

Corporate Policy Team

January
2023





Executive Summary

Inverclyde Council and the Inverclyde Alliance, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), are developing new plans that are due to run from 2023 onwards. To support the development of these plans a consultation was undertaken with residents of Inverclyde; this report details the findings from this consultation.

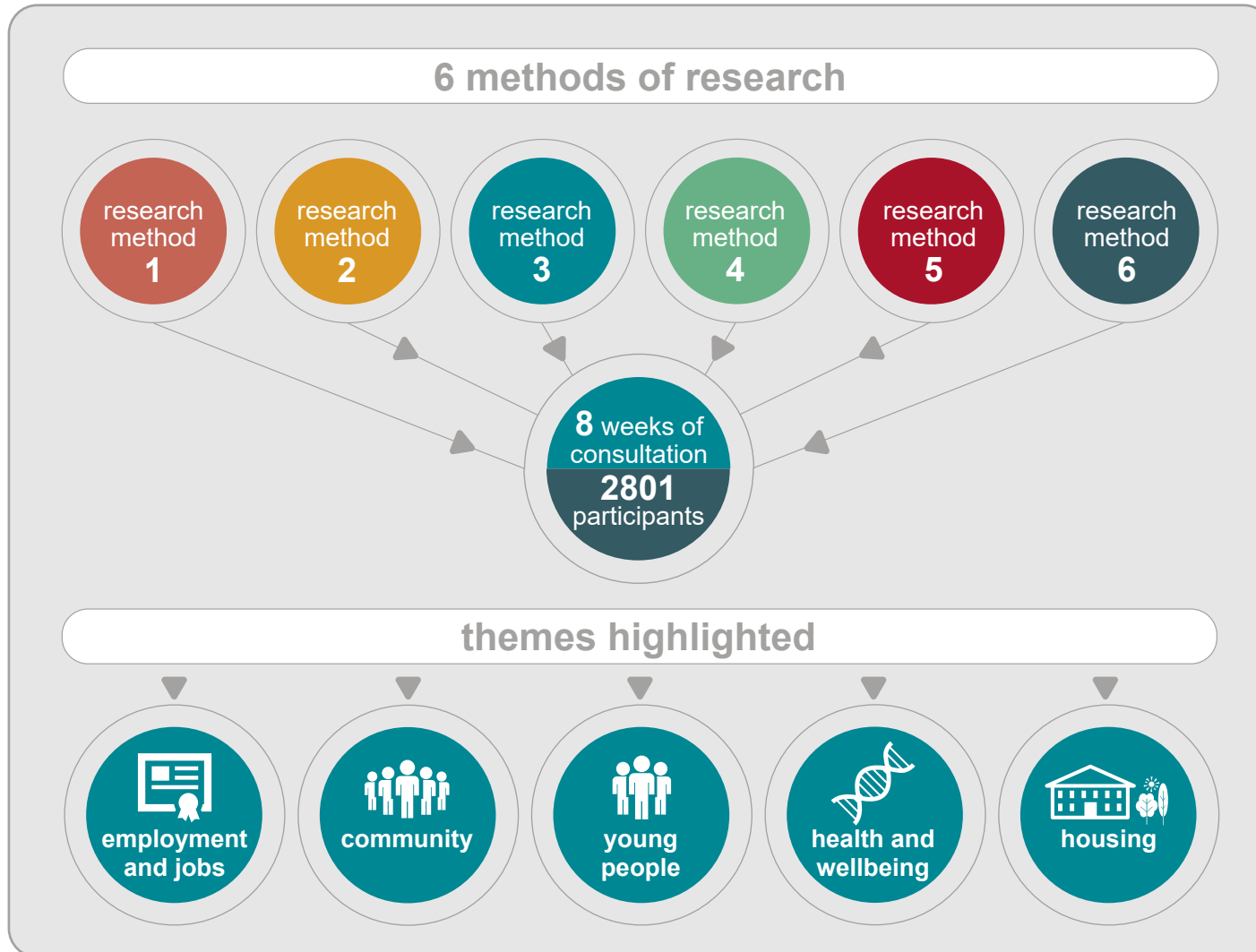
The consultation had six different research methods, half of which were quantitative based and the other half qualitative. Quantitatively there was an online public survey, specific questions in the Citizens' Panel Autumn 2022 Survey, and a question in the Inverclyde Council Employee Survey 2022. Through these the participants were able to rank what they thought the Council and the Inverclyde Alliance should prioritise. Participants could also expand on their thoughts by commenting in textboxes. Qualitatively there were theme based digital listening events, an in-person consultation event, and focus groups with school pupils. These events were moulded around themes that are important to Inverclyde, such as depopulation, inequality, economy, and culture/heritage. A mediator would prompt discussion around these topics allowing participants to voice their thoughts and their own solutions. Through all these different research facets the consultation was able to gather findings from just over 2,800 people.

The findings from all the different research methods have a clear thread of themes connecting them. Firstly, all the quantitative methods that asked participants to rank their priorities offered similar results. The public survey showed participants ranking increasing employment and good jobs as number one and two, with 'improving health and wellbeing' as three. The Citizens' Panel respondents offered the same top two results, with number three changing to 'reducing drug and alcohol misuse'. The

Employee Survey 2022 responses offered slightly different results, rank one was to focus on the cost-of-living, two was focusing on education, and three health and wellbeing. The public survey and the Citizens' Panel questionnaire offered the chance for participants to comment on what would make the biggest difference to Inverclyde, and both sets of research offered similar resulting themes. These included jobs, employment, housing, young people and community. The golden thread through all the quantitative research was the emphasis on jobs and employment.

The qualitative side of the consultation was based on the predetermined themes of Depopulation, Economy, Inequalities, Environment, Culture and Heritage, Health, Wellbeing, Housing, Communities, and Alcohol and Drugs. Participants discussed and agreed that all these themes are issues that Inverclyde needs to tackle, however, the emphasis was again on the employment and economy side. The discussions suggested that they see tackling these two issues as a foundational to tackling the other issues that were noted. The discussions included participants' thoughts on the causes, and their own suggestions for tackling these issues. These ranged from emphasising the Council's role to stressing the role of the community, as well as other methods.

This consultation provided the Council and the Alliance Board with the opportunity to have dialogue with the communities they serve. The findings gathered from the consultation are extremely valuable and have provided the Council and the CPP with direction on the priorities of their new plans. Tantamount to any plan the Council and Partnership produce is the input of the population it is going to serve, and through this consultation this has been achieved.





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1 Introduction

Inverclyde Council and the Inverclyde Alliance are developing new Council and Partnership Plans that are due to run from 2023 onwards.

The Partnership Plan is a commitment by the Inverclyde Alliance Partners to work together towards shared aims, with a focus on tackling inequalities and the added value of partnership working. The Inverclyde Alliance includes public sector organisations, along with the voluntary sector and businesses. The Council Plan provides a strategic framework for the work of the Council services.

Vital to the development of our plans are the opinions of the community it is going to serve. With this in mind, we have consulted through various methods; surveys, focus groups and community listening events. These were coordinated by Inverclyde Council Community Learning and Development. It must also be noted that under Part Two of The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 that it is a statutory duty for the Council and Partnership to allow and promote the involvement of the community in development of plans that relate to areas of community life.

The responses we have gathered will be presented and discussed in this report.





2 Open Public Consultation

For this consultation four different pieces of research were undertaken. Three of which were undertaken using a survey format. These were the public consultation, Citizens Panel and employee survey. There was a qualitative consultation that utilised listening events with members of the public and school groups.

The open public consultation used the SmartSurvey platform to survey residents of Inverclyde. The survey was open to all residents of Inverclyde and it generated 315 responses. The survey itself was promoted using a variety of channels. Participants were firstly able to rank seven priorities in order of what they think are of most importance.

Questions on community empowerment and ‘Getting It Right for Every Child’ were also asked. Then participants were invited to expand on three questions; How should we, working together, tackle your top key areas? And is there anything else that should be a key area?

2.1 Ranking 1 to 7

This part of the survey asked the participants to rank seven areas which would make the biggest difference to Inverclyde.

“Which of these do you think are the key areas in which the Council, our partners, and communities can make the biggest difference? Rank these statements from 1 to 7 (1 being the most important) Either click and drag or number in order of preference”

The highest scoring item was ‘increasing employment levels’, followed by ‘creation of good jobs’ and ‘improving health and wellbeing’. These three items are arguably interlinked, and this is

highlighted further on through participants comments linking job creation to higher employment and poor health and wellbeing to Inverclyde’s economic challenges.

Item	Total Score*	Overall Rank
Increasing employment levels	1512	1
Supporting the creation of good jobs with fair pay and conditions	1289	2
Improving health and wellbeing	1288	3
Having more good quality housing	1231	4
Reducing drug and alcohol misuse	1188	5
Improving our town centres and public spaces	1092	6
Increasing participation in community life	912	7

* Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is a sum of all weighted rank counts.

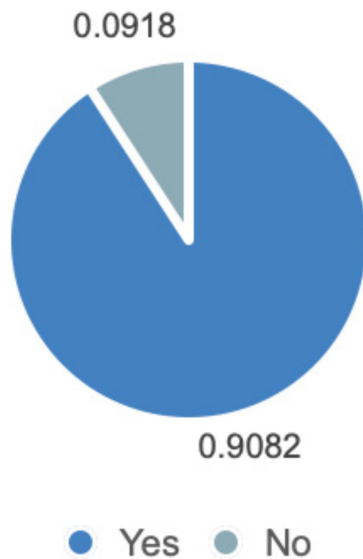


2.2 Getting Right for Every Child

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is the Inverclyde Council's and the Alliance Board's commitment to provide all children, young people and their families with the right support at the right time. This is so that every resident can reach their full potential.

The survey asked:

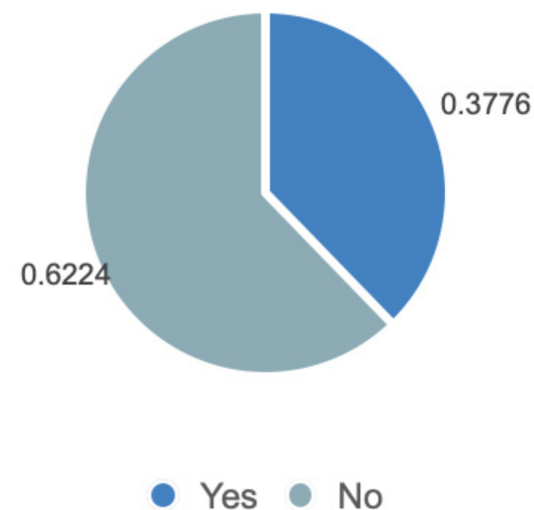
"Getting it right for every child, citizen and community in Inverclyde" is a shared vision across Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde Alliance so that we have a consistent approach. Do you agree with this vision?



2.3 Community Empowerment

The survey asked:

Would you like to be more involved in your local community, for example, have your say on you local priorities and how funding is allocated?





2.4 What one thing matters to you the most, that would make a difference to Inverclyde over the next 10 years?

Theme	Mentions	Context
Community/ies	32	This was the most commonly used word. However, the use of it is quite varied due to how the broadness of its meaning. Participants used the word in relation to safety, policing, and wellbeing. More specific to communities though were the themes of community regeneration, community events, keeping a 'sense' of community, togetherness, centres/ groups, and inclusivity. What can be sensed through these themes is the desire for a strengthened community, as well as opportunities for communities to bond and flourish.
Jobs	27	As expected, the other most popular theme was that of Jobs. Participants noted the need for long-term and permanent jobs in the area, as well as being 'well paid' jobs. There was also the call to attract employers and investors to the area in order to create jobs. The common thread throughout participants comments was that there needs to be investment in the area to create a long-term jobs that are able to retain a population. The sense that this should stem from new infrastructure and industrialisation was apparent in their comments. This bolsters the idea that residents want long term and not precarious employment.
Employment	20	'Employment', much as the same as above was in relation to long term investment to create sustainable jobs. Attracting employment opportunities was the thread here, and this touches on the fact that the participants do not see the current labour market in Inverclyde as one that can grow. Instead, they see the need for something new to happen, rather than building on the existing. Employment opportunities for young people was also mentioned and this again touches on retaining the younger population in order to combat the ongoing depopulation that Inverclyde faces.
Young People	20	'Young People' was a theme that was cross cutting and linked into the broader issues Inverclyde faces. Participants comments explicitly and inexplicitly saw the interlinked nature of these issues and their direct relation to young people. However, there was not just one main issue participants linked to young people, but a handful of the ones such as poor job opportunities, poor recreational opportunities, and the ageing and declining population. Participants could see that young people are the future of Inverclyde and making sure that the area that can retain young people will help tackle the inter-linked issues facing the Inverclyde. One issue that did reoccur was that there should be an increase in youth club provision. Participants saw this as a way of engaging younger people and keeping them away from anti-social behaviour.



Theme	Mentions	Context
Housing	18	Housing comments were quite broad and mainly related to the belief that there is poor housing and not enough of an affordable supply. Comments were also made about both young and old people, and that these should be a priority demographic to get housing. Building more social housing that can accommodate larger families was also noted. Other than this, participants were not too specific. The overarching consensus was that the condition and supply of affordable houses needs to be increased.
Roads/Pavements	15	Comments on 'Roads' related both to the condition of the roads as well as traffic. 'Pavement' comments were mainly concerned with the condition as well as overgrown foliage. When traffic was mentioned, it mostly was in relation to congestion and there being no alternative routes.
Bus	14	Whilst Transport in general was mentioned, comments relating to Busses were high. When participants elaborated further, they mentioned wanting 'more buses', affordability, and making sure routes reach new and future developments.
Shops	14	Shops were mentioned in relation to both attracting people into the area and for employment opportunities. Participants referred to current shops in Inverclyde as needing regenerated as well as being insufficient. 'Better shops' was the general consensus, whilst this is vague other participants stated that they would like to see affordability prioritised. From the comments, participants made it clear that shops do not just fulfil the purpose of being a store where locals can purchase things, they see them as a means of attracting visitors as well as potential new residents. Dismay at the current selection of shops and the need for 'regeneration' also shows that locals have pride in their locality and want to see it revamped and flourishing.
Regeneration	14	The broader comments regarding regeneration were concerned with specific areas of Inverclyde, or things such as opportunities for activities. Participants comments were varied, however, the general thread connecting them was that they wanted Inverclyde to show off its beauty in a modern way that remains in touch with the history of the area. For example, one participant suggested that the empty buildings should be used "creatively". Another participant emphasized that Inverclyde should be a place where you would want to spend time. This rhetoric shown by participants displays the civic pride they have in the area, and it highlights that the Council can do more to expand this amongst the general population.
Education	13	Comments on education were quite broad. However, some comments tied education to employability in the local area and others linked it to keeping young people away from crime.



Theme	Mentions	Context
Greenock	13	Greenock was the most mentioned locality. Again, reference to Greenock was in relation to regeneration and the town centre was the main area that participants wanted to see 'improvement'. All the comments seem to acknowledge the potential of Greenock Town Centre, but also dismay at its current state. With Greenock being the most populous area in Inverclyde it is not unforeseen that this would be the most mentioned locality. With it also being the historic centre of Inverclyde, as well as the most deprived, it is the locality that often garners the most attention in the public sphere.
Transport	11	Transport in general was mentioned in reference to both travelling into Inverclyde, commuting in/out, and the overall provision. Some participants felt that increased provision could help attract people to visit the area, as well as move to the area and commute out from it. Other participants stated that the current provision of transport was unsatisfactory and hardly meets the needs of the current population in Inverclyde. Overall, there was a general sense of dissatisfaction with the transport infrastructure and the feeling that any improvement could greatly benefit the area.
Drug(s)	11	Participants main concern was reducing/tackling the amount of drug use. They suggested that this would benefit the area's health and wellbeing, and also the way Inverclyde is portrayed.
Poverty	11	Again, participants noted that tackling/decreasing the level of poverty in the area would benefit it in the next 10 years.
Crime	10	Crime was often mentioned next to anti-social behaviour and drug use. General comments on 'reducing' crime was the rhetoric amongst participants.
Traffic	9	Participants comments on Traffic related mainly to congestion. The participants who mentioned traffic just generally felt that reduction of congestion would help the area.
Gourock	8	Gourock was mentioned by participants in comparison to Greenock and other areas in Inverclyde. Participants noted that other areas in Inverclyde sometimes get more attention than Gourock, and that that should not be the case. Another noted the provision for public transport outside of Port Glasgow and Greenock is 'terrible'. Comments relating to regeneration were quite general but referred to the sea front and more street cleaning.
Sustainable	7	Sustainable was solely mentioned in relation to employment. The participants who mentioned it talked about making sure that the employment was sustainable in the sense that the opportunities were long-term and could hold skilled workers in the area.
Schools	6	Comments relating to schools revolved around funding and making sure that young people have equal opportunities to gain qualifications.
Mental Health	6	Comments made around mental health related to making sure that there was enough accessible provision and resources around to help tackle it.



2.5 How should we, working together, tackle your top key areas?

Theme	Mentions	Context
Community/ies	46	Participants when mentioning Community in relation to this question were calling for the Council to work closer with, or to empower communities to undertake work. Participants noted things like “involving” the community, “educating” community members to participate, promoting “involvement” in the community, and “communication” with the community. Participant reaction to this question highlights that they think the Council needs to collaborate more with the community in the first instance. The fact that this question was about ‘working together’ and the majority of the replies were about how Council and Community need to work together suggests that there is a gap in the Council’s existing relationship with the community.
Attract	21	‘Attract’ was mentioned in reference to attracting employers/businesses and people into the area, both often being inter-linked.
Employment	19	Much the same as has been previously mentioned, is that participants want to see sustainable/long-term employment in the area.
Housing	19	The comments here mainly referred to the supply of housing, whether that be “social” or “appropriate” housing.
Drugs	14	Again, comments on this were aimed at reducing the amount of illegal drugs consumed in Inverclyde.
Listen	14	This ties to the theme of Community mentioned above. Participants comments were aimed at the Council and how the communities need to be listened to, and feel listened to.
Funding	14	Funding was a theme that was quite broad as participants asked for extra funding in a variety of different areas; housing, vulnerable people, older people, education, health, green spaces, the community.
Education	13	Education was quite broadly mentioned. However, a lot of the comments suggested that there needs to be “better” education on issues like drug use. They suggested that this would aid the prevention of usage.
Shops	11	References to shops by participants was that the area should have “better” shops. This is linked, again, to employment and both retention and growing the population.
Police	7	Police were mentioned as a way to reduce crime.



2.6 Is there anything else that should be a key area?

Theme	Mentions	Context
Young People	17	Comments here were mainly made in reference to both education and “activities” for young people.
Community	16	Again, Community was mentioned by participants in reference to supporting existing communities/groups or working more closely in the first place.
Improve	15	The phrase ‘Improve’ was used in reply to this question. However, it was used in reference to a broad range of things such as CCTV, transport, built environment and a range of the other topics that have been previously mentioned. What is interesting about the use of the word ‘improve’ is that it shows that participants believe that there is a base that can be worked upon, rather than a desire to have something different/new. This is a positive position as it shows that the basis is there for the Council and Alliance.
Support	14	Comments regarding Support were mainly made in reference to vulnerable groups such as low-income families, people with health conditions, and people with Additional Support Needs.
Education	10	Much the same sentiment as has already been expressed by participants was shown here.
Transport	9	Similar comments on transport as outlined above were repeated here.



2.7 Summary of Findings

What is perceptible from the findings are the reoccurring issues of Jobs and Employment, with interlinked mentions of housing and young people. There was also the overarching sentiment of strengthening the 'community'. These are the main areas that participants wanted to draw Inverclyde Council and Alliance Board's attention to.

Since the deindustrialisation of Inverclyde, the area has had challenges in relation to an economic base that could provide and sustain the area with well-paying and steady employment. The participants could see that from having a strong economic base there is a 'trickle down' effect in the sense that an employed and well-paid population will improve housing demand and thus stock/condition. As well as this it will retain the population (young people) to stay in Inverclyde. From there high street footfall increases and this all circulates and benefits Inverclyde.

Other areas that participants pointed to were education, crime, drug use, and transport. Education and crime were often mentioned together as participants stated that 'better' or 'more' education could lead to less crime. This 'better education' referred to education on the effects of drug use and the criminal aspects of it. As well as this education was discussed as a means of providing people with the skills to achieve and create new opportunities. Reducing crime, which was often drug use, was an issue that kept cropping up. Participants see this a priority issue that needs to be tackled and the fact that education was referenced shows that they do not consider just policing as a means to tackling it.

Transport was generally mentioned due to perceptions of how poor the service is and its affordability. Busses and trains were both mentioned, and the general sentiment was that these services need improvement locally as well as their links to Glasgow.

There were a number of mentions regarding community. The positive aspect is that there is real hunger for the community to be strengthened and empowered to do things of their own accord. Participants comments alluded to the fact the that community participation and involvement are routes to tackling some of the issues that the region faces. This gives the council and its partners direction and impetus to bolster the empowering of Inverclyde's communities to tackle their local issues. This will benefit everyone as Inverclyde's communities know themselves better than anyone else does, and that means they may know how to tackle their issues best.





3 Listening Events

The listening events were based around three different research methods. There were digital listening events, a physical listening event and focus groups with secondary school pupils.

Each of the digital listening events were centred on specific topics that are seen as key issues in Inverclyde; Inequalities, Local Economy and Repopulation. Keeping the individual listening events focused on these specific topics kept the participants discussion detailed and in-depth, allowing for greater data to be collected. The format was based around two questions. Firstly, participants were asked Do you think (insert issue) should remain a priority for the Council and its partners? Then they were asked What are the key issues we need to tackle to (insert issue)?

The focus groups with the young participants were centred on all these topics as well as the addition of 'Environment, Heritage and Culture'.

The in-person consultation took place in Post Glasgow Town Hall. The themes in this event differed slightly to the previous events. The themes included Health and Wellbeing, Economy, Housing, Population, Alcohol and Drugs, and Communities.

3.1 Digital Listening Events

3.1.1 Topic 1: Inequalities

Responses - Do you think reducing inequalities should remain a priority for the Council and its partners?

The response to this question was unanimously in favour of keeping Inequalities as a priority.

Participants put emphasis on helping those who “are most in need” and that the council and partners need to promote how those people can access help.

Responses - What are the key issues we need to tackle to reduce inequalities?

A variety of things were mentioned in response to this question such as education attainment, fuel poverty, low income, employment, communication and “warm banks”.

Education was mentioned in reference to the attainment gap and that those from different backgrounds may be disadvantaged going forward.

Fuel poverty, spurred by the current energy crisis, was centred on the fact that Inverclyde has high fuel prices. Participants stated that “pressure” should be put on suppliers to lower costs, as they see the high prices as “greed”.

Low income was discussed with reference to childcare and how the cost is unsustainable for low-income families and single parents. Breakfast clubs were mentioned in relation to this and that they should run five days a week. In a similar vein, employment was mentioned and the need for more opportunities as well as the council helping smaller businesses. Foodbanks were mentioned and the fact that it is “appalling” that they must exist.

There was considerable mention of “warm banks. This may be partly because around the period of researching there were news articles proposing them. However, participants attitudes towards them were mixed: both a disbelief that they have to exist and an acceptance that they might be necessary due to the rising price of energy. Participants



proposed that they should be marketed differently such as being a social event where community members can come to meet.

3.1.2 Topic 2: Repopulation

Do you think tackling population decline should remain a priority for the council & its partners? Why?

Participants comments on repopulation shifted focus to the conditions of Inverclyde and the perceived lack of infrastructure and facilities for the current population. The consensus was that there is not enough to sustain the current population so repopulation will be difficult.

This is where maybe the wording comes into play, is it Depopulation or Repopulation that is the priority? Tackling depopulation can be done in various ways such as improving existing infrastructure and sustaining and then growing the current population base. Whereas Repopulation is connotated with bringing new people into the area specifically.

What do you think are the key issues that should be tackled to encourage people to stay in Inverclyde?

Participants comments on encouraging people to stay in Inverclyde revolved around employment, amenities/infrastructure, and the cost. Employment was mentioned in reference to attracting employers and industry to the area. Participants acknowledged the need to build up an economic base in order for Inverclyde to sustain, attract and grow the population.

The amenities and infrastructure of Inverclyde were noted by participants. Regarding amenities, participants discussed the lack of them as well as the quality of the existing ones. Participants linked better quality amenities as a way to attract people as well as improve

employment. Infrastructure was generally mentioned as being poor, and that improving the infrastructure, whether that be housing or high streets, would have knock on benefits such as population retention and growth.

Cost was an important factor at the time of research due to the prevalence of the cost-of-living crisis and this is echoed in the participants discussions. Mentions of business rates being unaffordable and the general high price of leisure activities were all stated as something that should be reduced. Participant's discussions linked the fact that lowering these costs could be a way to attract more people and businesses to Inverclyde.

3.1.3 Topic 3: The Local Economy

Do you think the local economy should remain a priority for the Council and its partners? Why?

Participants comments were all unanimously in favour of keeping the Local Economy as a priority. Reasons why were similar; they discussed the fact that growing the local economy ultimately provides Inverclyde with a solid base for local business to flourish. Participants noted that developing the local economy is a way to tackle the other priorities, i.e., one participant noted that growing the local economy could have the knock-on effect of tackling inequality as more employment opportunities would be created.

Entrepreneurship was mentioned by a few participants. Comments regarding this were concerned with providing 'support' to local entrepreneurs and 'encouragement'. Participants who mentioned this suggested that developing local entrepreneurship would stimulate the local economy into a position that can sustain Inverclyde.



What are the key issues we need to tackle in order to improve the local economy?

There was an overwhelming number of comments on transport. Participants perceived that that “transport links” were poor as well the road network. It is interesting that participants see that improving transport would improve the local economy. This potentially stems from the fact that footfall is low and if transport were better, it would provide more people with the opportunity to visit. Arguably the call for better transport can be linked to depopulation, as it is an almost implicit call for more people to be in the area.

What are the key barriers our communities face to accessing employment?

The comments participants made regarding this were:

- Good transport links are vital.
- There needs to be support for people who are working.
- Felt this was a long-term national issue.

Again, transport is mentioned. This time participants could be referring to the difficulties in commuting around Inverclyde and out of it. In the wider survey that was completed, participants noted the cost of transport as a detriment to them using it. This could be a factor that is feeding the prevalence of transport as a reoccurring issue regarding the local economy. Referring to the survey again, there was a consensus that transport links/public transport was poor in the area. So, it is not surprising to see transport mentioned here as something that is detrimental to the local economy, especially since the local economy can be seen as the most encompassing issue in Inverclyde.

There were comments on supporting people in work as the wage levels and hours cannot provide a good quality of life. Research has shown that in-work poverty is at an all-time high, and the

people who are living under these conditions are only just surviving. The comments regarding this might speak to the fact that there is a prevalence of in-work poverty, and this will only have been heightened by the cost-of-living crisis.

3.2 Summary

Participants confirmed that these issues should remain a priority for the council and its partners. The topics that arose in these discussions are in line with what was found in the survey that was undertaken. Participants overwhelmingly noted the issues with the local economy and connected the poor economy, i.e. employment and wages, with tackling the other priorities. The current climate has also played a role, as the cost-of-living-crisis’ effects are being felt, as well as the energy crisis. The anxiety caused by these crises is conveyed through the comments where participants displayed both disbelief and anger. Participants noted the council alone cannot solve these issues and pointed to partnership working with the third sector as well as community groups. They also acknowledged the difficulties regarding funding for local government.

As mentioned, it was noted that participants saw the interlinked nature of these issues and the fact the local economy was the foundation to tackling them. To tackle depopulation participants noted the need for better paying jobs and opportunities, and on top of this the need for better housing and transport. Again, this was echoed in methods of tackling inequalities. Participants acknowledged that a better local economy would provide people with the tools to tackle the inequalities that exist both in their own lives and their local community.



3.3 Young People - Focus Groups

3.3.1 Topic 1: Repopulation

Do you think tackling this issue should remain a priority for the Council and its partners?

All the groups answered yes to this question.

What do you think are the key things that should be looked at/improved/changed to encourage people to stay in Inverclyde?

Shopping opportunities was an area two of the three groups commented on. They suggested that more shopping opportunities would encourage people into area. One group also noted that that these opportunities must come with better wages for shop workers as well as lower rents for the shops. This comment arguably stems from the view that current shopping opportunities in Inverclyde are not sustainable for both the employees and the longevity of businesses.

Group one noted that they would like to see the swimming pool upgraded as well as keeping the gym/swim free. Keeping public facilities free/affordable in their eyes is way to help repopulate the area. In this same vein, another group asked for trains to be “free”. With national entitlement cards busses are currently free for under 22s, so applying that to trains is something that they see would benefit repopulation.

Green spaces, and more social and recreational activities were mentioned. Another group felt that “most things are aimed” towards the older generation.

It was commented that welcoming more refugees would help repopulation.

Drugs were mentioned. Group members noted that supporting people with addiction and preventing drug dealers would make the streets safer. They suggested that through safer streets the area would be more lucrative for newcomers as well as the current population.

Are there other things you think are important to make Inverclyde a better place to live, learn, work and enjoy?

“Nicer” and more affordable housing were mentioned in reference to this question.

Better promotion of Inverclyde was mentioned as a means to attract non-residents to move into the area and stimulate the tourism industry. Having more ‘attractions’ in Inverclyde was also noted regarding tourism.

Other things mentioned were:

- Reduced cost of living
- Make council website user friendly
- Deal with the addiction/drink and drugs culture
- Reduce crime

Who can help make these things happen?

All the below were mentioned in reference to this question.

- Government/ local Council/ local business
- Inverclyde Council – more Community Wardens
- Inverclyde Council – look to put more focus and funding into things for young people to do
- More police patrols.

One group also mentioned pedestrianizing West Blackhall St.

Any other points to note:

Holding more community events such as the Farmers Market in Battery Park and having bands play were mentioned.

Youth clubs aimed at the young people aged 16-21 was discussed as they stated there are “no places” catering to this demographic. They suggested that better advertisement through social media should be utilised.



3.3.2 Topic 2: Reducing Inequalities

Do you think tackling this issue should remain a priority for the Council and its partners?

All groups answered yes.

What do you think are the key things that should be looked at/improved/changed to help local people and families who are affected by poverty and deprivation?

Wages were discussed in detail. One group stated that “even student jobs are very low paid in Inverclyde compared to other areas”. The need for better paid jobs has been a constant theme throughout this consultation, and the younger participants already see this as an issue that feeds into the broader inequalities of Inverclyde.

Access to cheaper food and free school meals were discussed. In general, the discussion revolved around making things free and accessible. Rising prices were mentioned in relation to this and can be seen as a direct result of the current cost-of-living crisis. Specific costs such as bills and fuel were mentioned and the general need to make things affordable.

Increasing voluntary opportunities was also mentioned.

Are there other things you think are important to make Inverclyde a better place to live, learn, work and enjoy?

Again, better wages and more free activities was discussed. A general comment on improving education was also made. Other comments included refurbishing the Ice Rink, school uniform/blazer provision, more ESOL classes and better integration within schools for asylum seekers.

Who can help make these things happen?

The main organisations mentioned here were the Council, Voluntary organisations, the Government, schools, and younger volunteers. Another comment was made suggesting that help should be given to parents with cooking such as providing them with ingredients.

3.3.3 Topic 3: Environment Heritage and Culture

Do you think this issue should remain to be a priority for the Council and its partners?

All participants agreed.

What are the key things we need to do to improve the environment for communities including children and young people?

The main issue that arose here was of various facilities and public places that need upgrading or developed. Participants felt that there are areas with no or old play parks, restricted access to football pitches, high price to use indoor courts, poor skate parks, lack of indoor entertainment venues, and a lack of general areas for young people to go.

Combating the alcohol and drug culture by creating alcohol free social spaces/venues was discussed. Further comments on extending national entitlement to trains was mentioned as this would make traveling around Inverclyde easier.

How do we get more local people involved in culture?

The general comment here were that young people were unaware of what “culture is available”. Participants noted that they did not know of McLean Museum or Newark Castle. They were also unaware if the Galoshaiions Festival was still taking place. Other comments stated that more local history should be taught in schools.

Are there other things you think are important to make Inverclyde a better place to live, learn, work and enjoy?

Comments made here revolved around both improving facilities and infrastructure. One discussion centred on the look of Inverclyde. They stated that “Inverclyde needs to be cleaner, grass needs cut, bushes cut and tidy”, and they also discussed the need for more bins in areas where there is a lack of them.



Who can help make these things happen?

Groups mentioned the council, government, third sector and the local community. Another group discussed that younger people should be mobilised, and that this should be done via social media advertising as well as flyers in schools.

Any other points to note:

Comments on parking were made here. They noted that more people shop in Port Glasgow as parking is free, whilst it is also easier to access shops. Regeneration of Oak Mall was noted, participants stated that it needs new shops if it wants to stay “relevant”.

3.3.4 Topic 4: Economy

Do you think this issue should remain a priority for the Council and its partners?

All groups answered yes.

What do you think are the key things that should be looked at/improved/changed to improve the local economy?

A variety of comments were made in response to this. Groups discussed the need for more shops, however, they also noted the need for rent and business rates to be lowered. This is a theme that has echoed through all the responses, and its origin is likely due to the perceived low survival rate of businesses in Inverclyde. The condition of shops on certain high streets will also have had an effect here, previous comments noted that shops in Inverclyde need improved.

Free parking was noted. This ties to the comments in the previous section where it was stated that Port Glasgow has free parking, suggesting that that attracts more shoppers to the area.

More young enterprise projects were noted as something that is needed. Again, the consensus from the younger participants was that they want to be empowered to help their local area.

Are there other things you think are important to make Inverclyde a better place to live, learn, work and enjoy?

Only two themes arose here; more shops and more enterprise projects.

Who can help make these things happen?

The same organisations as mentioned before were discussed (Council, Government etc.) The Oak Mall was also mentioned as a hub that has potential to help the area.

Any other points to note:

A few different comments were made here. School laptops and computers were mentioned and described as requiring improvement.

Other points made were somewhat similar to previous sections:

- Improve the hospita
- Access to free dentists
- Build a mosque in Inverclyde
- More school trips
- Promote Inverclyde better to outside Inverclyde

3.4 Summary of Findings

The discussions with younger residents were engaging and enabled Inverclyde Council and Alliance Board to capture the ideas of the younger people of Inverclyde. The younger participants all agreed that the priorities put forward to them should remain as priorities for the council and its partners. The main issues that were raised correspond to the previous issues highlighted in the survey and the listening events. However, more attention was given to things such as shops and youth orientated events/facilities. The main themes that arose with younger people correspond to their interests, this can be seen in the prevalence of the theme regarding facilities aimed at younger people.



The broader themes that arose were linked to the local economy, transport and the condition of Inverclyde. The local economy was present in discussions regarding the lack of “good” shops and other private/public facilities that are available.

With bus travel being free participants suggested that they would like to see this extended to trains. They noted this would make travelling around Inverclyde easier for them, as well making fast travel accessible to those on lower incomes. Participants noted the general condition of streets as well the perceived neglected areas. They suggested that improving this would aid tackling depopulation as it would encourage people to both stay and move to the area.

The way the council and partners communicate with younger people was noted. They stated that using social media effectively would engage younger people in local issues and events. As the discussions unveiled that some younger people do not know how to help Inverclyde, what the area has to offer, or the history of the area. They stated that using social media to tackle these issues would educate younger people as well as making them prouder of the area.

3.5 In-Person Listening Event - Port Glasgow Town Hall

Participants were asked to identify the issues surrounding several different themes, and then to offer an action to tackle the theme. The themes included health and wellbeing, economy, communities, population, housing, and alcohol and drugs.

3.5.1 Health and Wellbeing

The issues that were raised surrounding health and wellbeing related to things such as alcohol and drugs misuse, diet, exercise, poor mental health, poor health facilities, access to health services, walking/footpath maintenance and general a lack of resources.

The actions participants suggested were quite varied, but mainly revolved around expanding infrastructure and resources. Health and fitness provision was mentioned, and this referred to increasing and maintaining the number of gym facilities, providing volunteer personal trainers, community exercise events, fitness programmes with dedicated teams in each locality, and the making sure that current fitness centres are affordable and accessible. These actions relating to health and fitness stem from participants trying to tackle the issue head on. However, other participants noted that tackling systemic issues surrounding health and wellbeing would have greater effect. These actions came in the form of better education and communication around health and wellbeing, better advertisement of what facilities/opportunities are available, and easier access to GPs. Another action, that ties into 20-minute-neighbourhoods, was that participants noted that getting around by foot was difficult due poor pavements and routes. They also felt that walking at night is dangerous as the streetlighting is poor. They suggested that fixing this could lead to more enthusiasm surrounding walking and general outdoor fitness during the darker months and nights.

3.5.2 Economy

The issues identified regarding the economy were fairly similar to what was found in the survey. The issues noted were the lack of jobs, lack of sustainable opportunities, and having mainly low paying opportunities. Some participants perceived a lack of available land and resources, as well as bigger businesses getting contracts rather than local companies. The actions participants noted were all mainly around stimulating the economy. For example, they stated that there needs to be more a “innovative” use of space for new businesses and others emphasised the need to give local business priority to utilise the vacant spaces in the area. Young people were also mentioned, this was in reference to building up their work/employability skills and providing them with the opportunity to use them in the local area.



3.5.3 Communities

One of the main issues identified relating to communities was communication. Participants felt that the communication within the community is poor, as well as the communication from community groups. They explained that sometimes they only find out there are community events on until the day of the event. Participants noted some actions to tackle the communication void, these included better advertisement of community projects, greater involvement from the council in a facilitator role, and expanding 'Community Conservations' to make sure community engagement is high. Other actions included utilising local assets to increase local pride, better access to community facilities, adult learning classes as a means to bring people together, and community newsletters. There were also discussions surrounding transparency with funding. Participants suggested that the council should be more open with decisions surrounding this.

3.5.4 Population

Comments on population were almost all connected to employment. Participants noted that there needs to be an increase in work/employment opportunities and an expansion of locally based business. To tackle this, participants emphasised making the employment opportunities in Inverclyde more sustainable. They suggested that this should be done through lower rates and easier routes for local entrepreneurs to set up. The interconnected nature of population and employment is evident here. This has been something that has appeared throughout the consultation process, and it highlights that Inverclyde's residents see the route to tackling depopulation must come through economic means.

3.5.5 Housing

The issues raised surrounding housing were generally aimed at the perception that the current housing stock is not meeting the needs Inverclyde's current communities. Other comments reported the maintenance of the existing stock was poor, and with there being an ageing population this could be hazardous. Lack of disabled housing options was also mentioned, as well as anti-social behaviour appearing in certain pockets. Actions to tackle the housing issues varied. To tackle the poor condition of stock participants suggested that the Council and Housing Associations should be doing more to help tenants. Other participants suggested that tenants should have the onus and be giving more tools to undertake the upkeep themselves. Other comments noted that there should be more consultation with residents about housing and that their views should be considered when new developments arise.

3.5.6 Alcohol and Drugs

Participants noted the perceived ease of access to drugs and alcohol, especially for young people. The main way participants suggested to tackle this was through early intervention. Early intervention through schools was one of the main talking points. Other participants noted the need to have more recreational facilities for young people, they suggested that these can combat the routes into antisocial behaviour. Sport and leisure facilities were mentioned as key institutions.



3.5.7 Summary

Port Glasgow Town Hall event was fruitful in two ways. Firstly, it was a productive data gathering session that has provided the consultation with rich findings. Secondly, it allowed the Inverclyde Council, Alliance Board and the public to have a face-to-face meeting. This meeting has also highlighted the willingness to collaborate and listen to the public. Developing this type of relationship is important as it can show the public that engaging with Inverclyde Council and Alliance Board can have results.

The findings gathered from this event delved into different themes of importance for Inverclyde and has shown that there is consensus throughout the consultation. The main themes of this event were independently identified in other areas of this consultation. The root causes of these issues such as poor employment opportunities, lack of investment, and deprivation are consistent with what has been raised already. However, this event also offered the chance for participants to suggest how to tackle these issues. Whilst again, there are some similarities with other areas of the consultation, the participants of this event emphasised some different areas. The role of the council was more a prominent answer at this event, with participants suggesting that the council needs to facilitate and aid community Groups more. The Health and Wellbeing theme prompted a discussion that offered different suggestions. The participants focused on tackling Health issues on the community level, this manifested in suggestions such as deploying teams to localities to undertake fitness/wellbeing classes. This shows participants believe issues like this can be tackled from the ground up rather coming from above.

groups early space
vacant street education
localities pavements poor
community opportunities
condition facilities lighting
council fitness housing rates
walking centres stock business
intervention
employment innovative



4 Citizens Panel

The Citizens' Panel was established in 2007 to enable Inverclyde Council to regularly consult with Inverclyde residents on a wide range of issues. The Panel comprises around 1,000 local residents, with membership refreshed annually by one third.

Membership is almost evenly split between males and females and just under half (426) of respondents live in the most deprived 15% of datazones in Inverclyde.

The responses to the Autumn 2022 survey totalled 616, this is around 62% of the total membership of the Panel which is a very good response rate for a questionnaire of this type.

4.1 What key policy areas do you think the council, our partners and communities should develop to make the biggest difference in Inverclyde?

	Total
Increasing employment levels	67%
Supporting the creation of good jobs with fair pay and conditions	47%
Reducing drug and alcohol misuse	42%
Having more good quality housing	40%
Improving health and wellbeing	37%
Improving our town centres and public spaces	37%
Increasing participation in community life	22%



4.2 What key policy areas do you think the council, our partners and communities should develop to make the biggest difference in Inverclyde?

Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Ticked, not ranked
Increasing employment levels	25%	30%	12%	12%	7%	5%	6%	4%
Having more good quality housing	14%	8%	18%	13%	16%	19%	9%	3%
Reducing drug and alcohol misuse	11%	11%	20%	13%	12%	14%	15%	4%
Increasing participation in community life	4%	9%	9%	13%	21%	20%	23%	2%
Improving health and wellbeing	11%	11%	15%	20%	18%	10%	12%	3%
Improving our town centres and public spaces	17%	8%	12%	15%	10%	18%	15%	4%
Supporting the creation of good jobs with fair pay and conditions	17%	19%	11%	10%	13%	9%	17%	3%



4.3 Getting it right for every child, citizen and community in Inverclyde is a shared vision across the council and the Inverclyde Alliance. Do you agree with this vision?

	Total
Yes	86%
No	14%

4.4 Comments

4.4.1 What one thing would make the biggest difference to Inverclyde over the next 10 years?

Theme	Mentions	Context
Employment/ Jobs	29	The thread that appears throughout this consultation is that of jobs and employment. Participants in the Citizen Panel echo what has been said before. They believe that better employment and job opportunities can make the most difference to Inverclyde over the next 10 years. The reasons they gave were familiar, they noted that jobs and employment would retain people in the area which would have knock on effects to the wider economy. These effects include larger footfall in town centres which would benefit local businesses and the ‘face’ of Inverclyde. They all suggest that having a strong economic base through good jobs/employment would allow stronger foundations to be built which would benefit tackling the broader existing issues such as population decline, deprivation and crime.
Town Centre	22	A common topic that appeared in this Citizens Panel was the ‘town centre’, overwhelmingly Greenock town centre. The participants comments revolved around issues like ‘regeneration’, ‘upgrade’, ‘clean’, ‘improve’, and ‘invest’. The consensus was that the town centre is in need of upgrading. However, the participants noted the potential of the town centre and ultimately want the area to be fully utilised for local business and as an attraction for tourists. This is interlinked with jobs and employment as participants noted that for town centres to flourish there needs to be local businesses who can sustain employees whilst attracting enough customers.
Investment	20	Investment was a common term mentioned by participants. This mainly, as mentioned above, was concerned with providing the area with jobs/employment and funding for regeneration. The comments provided highlight that the area is lacking something, and the participants see that further investment would be a way to add to the area.
Shops	17	Shops were mentioned as having a dual purpose. Participants acknowledged that ‘better’ shops bring larger footfall which will benefit the high streets and town centres. This would then help sustain the local economy. The other purpose of shops is as an employer. Participants noted more shops would mean more jobs and again they saw this as a way to help sustain the local economy and help Inverclyde thrive.



Theme	Mentions	Context
Road/s	17	Roads were mentioned mainly in relation to needing improved or better maintained. Participants comments relating to improvement were emphasising that improved road networks would attract more people to the area due to ease of access, as well as improving the ease of traveling for locals. Comments on maintenance were concerned with potholes and overgrown areas, they noted that these were hazardous and make it harder to travel as well as giving off a bad image.
Children/ Young/sters	14	Participants comments on children and young people were mainly concerned with support and providing opportunities. The comments surrounding support were mainly aimed at helping children in poverty. Participants noted that providing free school meals, as well as affordable leisure activities were key ways to help support them. Comments on opportunities were aimed at teenagers, and these consisted of things like providing opportunities to work, leisure activities and clubs. Participants comments all stemmed from their perception that children/young people in Inverclyde have less opportunities, and by providing them with these outlets it will keep them away from anti-social/ criminal behaviour. As well as this, participants saw that investing in children will help Inverclyde in the long-term as they are the future of the area.
Houses/ing	13	Comments regarding Houses and Housing revolved around the need for 'better' housing options and affordability. The comments surrounding 'better' or 'improved' housing mainly related to family homes. Participants noted that they wanted to see families have better homes as this would help the raising of families. It was suggested that this would also help promote younger couples to have families as they would see that the housing options were suitable for this. Affordability also related to families as the cost of housing could be a deterrent to starting a family. Comments on affordability were generally suggesting that housing options were expensive.
Business	12	Comments surrounding business tie into the comments on jobs/employment. Participants comments revolved around 'attracting' and 'helping' businesses in the area. Participants see businesses as a route to tackling low employment and providing the area with jobs. Participants noted that the area needs to try and attract more businesses as well as help develop homegrown enterprises.
Clean/er/ing	10	Comments regarding the cleanliness of Inverclyde referred to both litter and the 'face' of Inverclyde. Comments on litter were generally concerned with there being more effort to make the area tidier. Participants noted this would make the area more attractive for tourists and local residents. Comments on the 'face' of Inverclyde referred to improving the high streets and town centres. This stems to earlier comments on getting more shops and businesses as participants see the perceived dereliction as something that makes the area untidy.
Community	9	Comments on community related to increasing the 'sense' of community as well as funding community spaces. The comments surrounding the 'sense' of community relate to community empowerment and the fact that participants do not feel like they are part of a cohesive community. However, it shows that participants see being part of a community is important, and that through community participation Inverclyde will get some form of benefit. Comments on funding and community spaces were vague but they inferred that the Council should take a more active role and provide community organisation with more funding so that they can effectively operate.



4.4.2 Are there any other policy areas you think should be a priority in the local area? Please state.

Theme	Mentions	Context
Road/s	11	The quality of roads was the main concern here. Participants noted that the quality of roads is important as it can deter people from coming to the area and leave a bad impression.
House/ing	8	Affordability and the quality of houses were mentioned again.
Town Centre	8	'Revamping' was mentioned in relation to town centres. Accessibility was also mentioned. The accessibility referred to parking and the need to make town centres more accessible to both residents and non-residents.
Community	8	Supporting the community was the main theme in the comments. The comments were aimed at the Council and suggested that the Council should be supporting communities further through funding and promoting engagement.
Young/sters	7	Providing 'spaces' and 'activities' were the main comments here. Again, the comments imply that this will keep young people away from anti-social behaviour.
Business	5	Support for local businesses was the reoccurring theme here. Again, this points to the perception that businesses in Inverclyde need support and this stems to deep rooted issues in the economy of the area.
Drug/s	5	Comments relating to Drugs were centred on tackling their misuse.

4.4.3 How should the Council, working with the local community, tackle your top priorities?

Theme	Mentions	Context
Groups	11	Working with local groups was the main theme that was mentioned. Participants noted that working with, funding and encouraging the existing groups in Inverclyde should be a priority.
Listen	9	The word Listen was mentioned by participants. It shows that participants are willing to be involved in their community and highlights the desire for more governance over their own communities.
Engage/ment	8	Similar to the above, the participants seek further engagement from the Council and Partnership. Again, this highlights the desire for community empowerment.
House/ing	8	Comments on housing here noted that Partners should look at refurbishing old housing stock as well creating more affordable and quality stock.
Young/sters	8	Participants here noted that they would like to see more work done with young people, such as capturing their views and opinions and trying to cater towards them. Working with groups that focus on young people was also a theme that arose, and it ties to the previously mentioned reasons.
Business	7	Comments here echo previous statements about working with, encouraging existing and attracting new businesses.



4.4.4 What do you think should be the shared vision for the Inverclyde area?

Theme	Mentions	Context
Employment/Jobs	13	Participants put emphasis on jobs and making sure that there are secure and varied opportunities that retain and attract people into the area.
Child/ren	13	Supporting and helping children was the main thread throughout these comments. There was an emphasis on children who live in poverty and making sure that they have 'equal access' to amenities, education and leisure.
Health/y	13	Comments on health revolved around improving health and making sure people have access to health enhancing facilities.
Safe/ty	10	Being safe and safety all referred to community safety and making sure that areas are made safe.
Live	8	Comments regarding 'Live' almost all centred-on participants wanting Inverclyde to be a place where people come and can currently 'live'. This links to the depopulation of the area as participants can see that this is an issue that needs combated.
Improve/ing	8	Improvement was a phrase that participants commonly noted. Areas they noted were in quality of life, standard of living, local image, lifestyles and services.
Education	7	Comments on education noted that there needs to be better quality as well as access.
Drugs	7	Comments on drugs link to the sections on safety and health. Participants noted that they want to see drug abuse tackled as this would lead to safer streets.

4.5 Summary of Findings

The responses gathered from Inverclyde’s Citizen Panel are similar to what other participants have said in our other consultations. However, one noteworthy theme that arose more frequently was that of the town centres, and mainly Greenock Town Centre. Participants in the citizens panel displayed concern over the current state of the town centre, reference to the closed shops, quality of shops, and the overall cleanliness were discussed. They linked the regeneration of town centres as a path to creating an economic base that could provide the area with more employment. They also acknowledged that this would make the town centres attractive for people who may move into the area. Participants believed that having a thriving town centre would help tackle the systemic issues that Inverclyde faces

in the form of deprivation, low employment and depopulation. Other than this theme, the issues noted by participants can be seen in every facet of the consultation and this bolsters the common threads that the council and partnership need to focus on.





5 Employee Survey

The Inverclyde Council employee survey is carried out every three years. Most recently it took place from August until October 2022. Employees were asked a range of questions regarding their employment. However, there was the addition of a question on Inverclyde Council and its partners priorities. The question asked employees “What should the council and its partners priorities be over the next five years?”. A total of 1,737 employees responded to this question.

5.1 Findings

The respondents indicated that the most important issues in Inverclyde that the council, and its partners, should focus on over the next five years are as follows:

1. Cost of living crisis/poverty
2. Education
3. Health and wellbeing
4. Staff morale and wellbeing
5. Council budget

5.2 Summary

There are outlying answers in this section; ‘staff morale and wellbeing’ and ‘council budget’. The inclusion of these as answers will stem from the nature of who was being surveyed. However, the inclusion of ‘council budget’ as an answer has larger implications than employees’ personal job security. The implication is that a reduction in the council’s budget may negatively affect the provision of council services.

The top two answers to this question are more in line with what has been raised throughout the consultation. Number two was education, and this can correspond to various issues in Inverclyde. Throughout the consultation education has been linked to tackling health outcomes, alcohol and drug use, and as a source of creating new employment opportunities. The encompassing nature of education is a reason why it constantly appears as a source to tackling various issues. The cost of living and poverty was selected as the top priority. The direct inclusion of this as a priority is not surprising as the current economic climate, stemming from energy prices, has inflated the cost of living in almost every regard.



6 Conclusion

6.1 Summary and the Golden Thread

The Council Plan and Partnership Plan should align to Inverclyde's residents needs and wants. This consultation has allowed these needs and wants to become articulated and has provided the Council and Partnership with direction and insight into Inverclyde's residents priorities. It must be noted that it is a statutory responsibility for the Council to engage with residents and make sure that their views are incorporated into the planning of the area.

This consultation was undertaken in a meaningful environment, giving residents a platform to influence their community. Close to 2000 different attitudes and desires have been captured.

Common threads arose through the different methods of research, and these specific themes were highlighted as areas that should be prioritised. The sections below highlight these common themes.

6.1.1 Employment and Jobs

The highest ranking and recurring issue that arose was employment and jobs. Participants highlighted the lack of jobs, the pay of the existing jobs and the sustainability of long-term employment in the area. Participants acknowledged that this is an issue that cannot be resolved quickly, however, they could see the long-term benefits of having a stronger employment base. A range of participants discussed how building an employment base will have knock on effects that help tackle the issues the area faces. They noted that depopulation, deprivation and poorer health and wellbeing can be linked to the erosion of Inverclyde previous manufacturing base.

6.1.2 Community

Another theme that arose in comments was surrounding community. Participants emphasised their desire that the Council and Partners work closer with communities and the already existing community groups. This highlights that there is a desire amongst Inverclyde's communities to be empowered and undertake more responsibility.

6.1.3 Young People and Children

The theme of young people arose in relation to several issues; employment opportunities, housing, leisure activities/facilities, and anti-social behaviour. The consensus amongst the participants was that there was a lack of employment opportunities and leisure facilities for younger people and this void has pushed them to engage in anti-social behaviour. Participants comments acknowledged that these people are the future of Inverclyde, but the area has challenges regarding the infrastructure to retain these people. This ties into the comments on housing where participants reported that there was a lack of access to housing for young people. The comments on young people show that the participants are concerned about the future of Inverclyde which will stem from the depopulation that the area is facing.

Comments on children often revolved around supporting those children that are living in poverty. The comments were aimed at providing these children with 'equal access' to things such as school meals, uniforms and other activities that they may not be able to take part in due to their socio-economic situation.



6.1.4 Housing

Housing was an issue that cropped up in every consultation. The comments predominately focused on difficulty of accessing housing due to affordability. Certain comments were also concerned with the quality of housing and the suitability of it for families. The clear thread through the comments on housing were orientated towards the future. Again, arguably stemming from the depopulation the area faces the participants emphasised the need to ensure that the current population has affordable housing so that they are retained in the area. However, other participants suggested that better housing opportunities would also attract new people into the area. Thus, the narrative of these comments was generally concerned about population retention and attraction.

6.1.5 Health and Wellbeing

The theme of Health and Wellbeing was interlinked to a wide range of issues. Participants suggested that improving the general health and wellbeing of residents should be a priority as this can have long-term effects regarding life expectancy, hospital admissions and overall life fulfilment. They also noted the negative effects that alcohol and drug consumption can have on health and wellbeing. The lack of, and closure of leisure/fitness facilities was also suggested as being a source of poor mental and physical health and wellbeing. Much like the other main themes, poor health and wellbeing was viewed as a symptom of deep-rooted issues in the area such as a deprivation and economic stagnation. However, participants did suggest some direct actions on how to improve the general health and wellbeing in the area. The most illuminating suggestions came from the in-person consultation in Port Glasgow. The participants suggested deploying locality tailored health and wellbeing teams into communities to get residents involved in different classes and events. The suggestion of community led action highlights that Inverclyde's residents have a desire to tackle issues on the community level.

6.3 Next Steps

Now that the findings from the consultation have been analysed, they will be used to inform both the Council and Partnership Plans. In order for this to happen the findings will be shared with Inverclyde's Elected Members and the Alliance Board membership. The public perceptions and ambitions for Inverclyde will be considered alongside the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), the National Performance Framework, and the Council and Alliance resources in order to develop local priorities.

6.3.1 Inverclyde Council and Partnership Plan

The two plans that the findings will inform are the Council Plan, and the Partnership Plan. Whilst there are similarities between the plans, there are significant differences in regard to their purposes.

The Partnership Plan is a commitment by Inverclyde Alliance partners to work together towards shared aims, with a focus on tackling inequalities and the added value of partnership working. Inverclyde Alliance includes public sector organisations, along with voluntary section and businesses. Whereas, the Council Plan explains how Inverclyde Council will operate, what its priorities will be, and how it will support delivery of the Partnership Plan.



**Inverclyde Council and
Partnership Plan Consultation**
Corporate Policy Team
January 2023

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Inverclyde
council



Inverclyde Alliance

AGENDA ITEM NO: 9

Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	13 March 2023
Report By:	Vicki Cloney- Chair Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Audrey Howard Interim Head of Criminal Justice & Children's Services	Contact No:	01475 715282
Subject:	Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update of the work of the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership in relation to the delivery of a Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan and to present the Inverclyde Community Justice Annual Report 2021-22.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (The Act) provides the statutory framework for the model of community justice at a national and local government level. The Act stipulates adherence must be given to the National Strategy for Community Justice; the Community Justice Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework and associated Guidance in the development of a local Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan and subsequent Annual Reports.
- 2.2 This report outlines local progress on a range of statutory requirements placed on the community justice partners for a local area including a requirement to review their Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) (Section 22), a requirement to publish an annual response (Section 23) and supporting Community Justice Scotland and their statutory obligation to consult on the preparation of an annual report (section 27(3)).
- 2.3 During the course of the current reporting year, the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership has sought to progress around two key pieces of work; one in relation to the governance and structural arrangements of the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership and one in relation to the preparation of a new Inverclyde CJOIP. This report outlines progress on these pieces of work and seeks Alliance endorsement on the publication of the new Inverclyde CJOIP.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Inverclyde Alliance Board:
- Notes the report content;
 - Endorses a decision by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership to publish the new Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan during 2023;
 - Notes the content of the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership Annual Report 2021/22; and
 - Confirm the offer of an input to a future Alliance Board meeting in preparation of the Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Vicki Cloney- Chair- Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (The Act) defines Community Justice as:

- Giving effect to bail conditions, community disposals and post-release control requirements,
- Managing and supporting designated persons with a view to helping them to not offend in future or in reducing their future offending,
- Preparing people for release where they have been convicted of offences and sentenced to imprisonment or detention,
- Facilitating the provision of relevant general services which people who have been sentenced to imprisonment or detention are likely to need immediately following their release Giving effect to bail conditions.

In relation to managing and supporting persons this includes, but not limited to, providing opportunities to participate in activities designed to eliminate or reduce future offending and helping designated persons to access such activities, offering emotional and practical support to help eliminate or reduce further offending and helping persons to access and make use of general services.

In so far as 'designated persons' this includes people who have been convicted of an offense, people who have been given an alternative to custody/"community disposal", people who have been given an alternative to prosecution or people who have been arrested on suspicion of committing an offence.

4.2 Community Justice is further defined in the National Strategy for Community Justice as *"...organisations working together to ensure that people who have offended address the underlying causes of their behaviour, and pay back to the community where appropriate. It aims to encourage rehabilitation, reduce reoffending, and protect the public, leading to fewer victims and safer communities. This requires a strong partnership working approach at each point of the justice system, from the point of arrest, through to integration into the community."*

4.3 The Act established the legislative framework for the new model of community justice and broadly;

- Defines Community Justice
- Gives statutory partners duties to focus on improving community justice outcomes locally
- Explains who the statutory partners are in relation to community justice
- Requires statutory partners to publish a community justice outcomes improvement plan
- Requires statutory partners to publish a Participation Statement on their engagement with third sector and communities as part of the community justice planning process
- Requires statutory partners to review plans periodically

4.4 Those statutory partners as outlined at 4.2 are:

- Chief Constable of Police Scotland
- Health Boards
- Integration Joint Boards for Health and Social Care
- Local Authorities
- Scottish Court & Tribunal Service
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- Scottish Minister (i.e. Scottish Prison Service, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service)
- Skills Development Scotland
- Third sector bodies

For the purposes of clarifying 'third sector bodies' those are those who provide a general service relating to community justice or who represent or promote the interests of designated people as outlined in The Act.

- 4.5 A Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan must be developed and published by the statutory partners to show how they intend to achieve the nationally determined outcomes for community justice. The plan must use all the common outcomes laid down in the National Performance Framework known as the Outcomes Performance Improvement Framework.
- 4.6 Local statutory partners will be required to report on progress towards achieving the common outcomes in the Outcomes Performance Improvement Framework, indicating whether progress is being achieved or how near the outcome is to being achieved.
- 4.7 Local statutory partners may also identify additional local outcomes and local indicators as part of the plan process to reflect agreed local priorities for community justice. They may also wish to consider whether they need to agree local arrangements to share any appropriate local data to ensure their plans are based on best available evidence.
- 4.8 A report on progress in achieving the outcomes in the plan must be prepared and published by the local statutory partners each year. Community Justice Scotland is also required to publish an annual report on performance in relation to the national outcomes and local statutory partners are required to assist in the contribution of this report. In essence local partners are required to inform CJS on their progress locally against the national outcomes in addition to the publication of an annual report.
- 4.9 The local partnership must also review their plan from time to time to determine whether a new plan is required. A review of the plan is also required in the following circumstances; when a revised National Performance Framework is published, when a revised National Strategy for Community Justice is published and when a revised Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for the local authority area is published.

5.0 NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE

- 5.1 In May 2021, the Chair of the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership received a joint letter from Scottish Government (SG) and CJS detailing the legislative framework, review of the national strategy and OPIF, overview of likely timescales and the potential impact on local CJOIPs.
- 5.2 In the Programme for Government 2021-22, it was confirmed that during the Parliamentary year a new National Strategy for Community Justice would be published. Following consultation events in relation to the previous national strategy and formal consultations in relation to a draft strategy, the new strategy was published on 30 June 2022.
- 5.3 This revised [National Strategy for Community Justice](#) sets the national direction for community justice by building on progress made to date. It is designed to provide a clear roadmap for future improvement work, by highlighting key areas for partners to focus on. The strategy sets out four national aims for community justice, and 13 priority actions which the Scottish Government and community justice partners should seek to deliver over the duration of the strategy. To achieve these, partners must work closely together. Effective coordination and collaboration are key and community justice partners must ensure they have a clear focus on delivery. The national aims and priority actions are appended for information as appendix 1.
- 5.4 The Act requires that local partners must review their CJOIP after the publication of a revised national strategy for community justice. The Inverclyde CJP held the view that a new local CJOIP was needed for Inverclyde and proposed to extend the current Inverclyde CJOIP by one further year and to produce the next Inverclyde CJOIP on 1 April 2023. In advance of this, a paper was prepared for the Inverclyde Alliance Board at its meeting on 4 October 2021 accepting the recommendation to endorse the decision to extend the current Inverclyde CJOIP.

6.0 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The Act sets out the approach for the publication of a National Performance Framework. It has been concluded by CJS that the previous National Performance Framework no longer fits with the current National Strategy for Community Justice and a new one is being prepared in order for Scottish Ministers to approve.
- 6.2 Following the publication of the National Strategy for Community Justice, CJS has met with local Community Justice Partnerships and Community Justice Lead Officers (and equivalent) to outline the proposed new National Performance Framework with an indicative timeframe. At the time of submission it is understood by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership that the National Performance Framework will be published by 31 March 2023.

7.0 INVERCLYDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

- 7.1 As noted at 5.1, the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership sought endorsement from the Inverclyde Alliance Board to extend the current Inverclyde CJOIP by one further year and to produce a new CJOIP on 1 April 2023. It is now the position of the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership that this timeframe cannot be met owing to the National Performance Framework having not yet been published. This position is taken as The Act requires “*the community justice partners for the local area must have regard to...the national performance framework*” (Section 20(2)).
- 7.2 The Inverclyde Alliance Board are being asked to endorse a decision by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership to publish a plan *during 2023*. This date range gives the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership the opportunity to meet its statutory duties as set out in The Act under sections 20 and 21.
- 7.3 During 2022/23 the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership have held two full day development sessions to consider the future CJOIP and have identified a plan that will take cognisance of the four national priority aims and have further identified four local aims during the lifespan of the document. The aims have been developed from a range of data sources at a local and national level and are noted as:

National Aims	Local Aims
Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity	Support individuals in the justice system with access to safe and appropriate housing
Ensure that robust and high quality interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland	We will better understand the impact that poverty and the cost of living crisis has on the justice system in Inverclyde
Ensure that services are accessible and available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence	We will develop and deliver trauma informed leadership across the Partnership
Strengthen the leadership, engagement, and partnership working of local and national community justice partners	We will help communities understand their role in community justice through co-production and engagement.

- 7.4 In addition to the aims as noted at 7.3 there will be a detailed action plan outlining key priority actions and accompanied by a Participation Statement as required by The Act. In respect of the Participation Statement it is proposed to engage with a wide range of individuals and groups in Inverclyde. If the Inverclyde Alliance Board thought it appropriate to do so, the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposed CJOIP at a future Alliance Board meeting.

8.0 INVERCLYDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

8.1 Following the retirement of the previous Chair of the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership, the previous Vice Chair, Vicki Cloney from CVS Inverclyde, was appointed Chair at the October 2022 meeting of the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership.

8.2 In preparation for the publication of the Inverclyde CJOIP, the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership will confirm changes to the current structural arrangements. Although the Partnership are awaiting the publication of the National Performance Framework the following has been identified:

- A need to confirm the level of officer attending the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership Board, and to invite additional partners who can contribute effectively to the Community Justice Partnership Board and the Inverclyde CJOIP,
- A need to introduce a family group structure into the Community Justice Partnership with the creation of sub-groups and re-focussing of existing sub-groups.
- A need to link and where appropriate formalise arrangements with other strategic groups in Inverclyde ensuring opportunities for better partnership working leading to better outcomes for individuals in the justice system.

8.3 In advance of the publication of the Inverclyde CJOIP, all governance and structural arrangements will have been concluded.

9.0 INVERCLYDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS 2021-22

9.1 In order to fulfil our statutory obligation of Section 22 of The Act, Inverclyde CJP seeks to publish an annual report in relation to the national determined outcomes. The annual report is attached as Appendix 2.

9.2 Progress was made across the seven nationally determined outcomes and noted in the annual report. Additionally, the Partnership undertook a range of developments during the reporting year. The annual report also highlights 2 spotlight examples of partnership work as well as some individual case studies highlighting the impact on partnership working for individuals in the justice system.

9.3 In order that Community Justice Scotland fulfils their statutory obligation of Section 27 The Act all local partnerships are asked to complete a template return of action against national determined outcomes. This document was submitted to Community Justice Scotland in advance of the submission date in September 2022. Accordingly, CJS have identified a case study example from Inverclyde around deprivation and some of the responses in supporting individuals. At the time of report submission, CJS have not published their annual report on performance.

10.0 IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Legal:
The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 sets out a range of local requirements in respect of the delivery of community justice.

10.2 Finance:
A Community Justice Lead Officer is appointed and hosted by Criminal Justice & Children's Services within Inverclyde HSCP using the Scottish Government's Community Justice funding allocation of £62,500 to Inverclyde. This highlights the temporary nature of funding and the need to articulate at appropriate national forums the case for a long-term commitment to funding to ensure the successful implementation of the community justice agenda in Inverclyde.

10.3 Human Resources: none at present

10.4 Equality and Diversity: none at present

10.5 Repopulation: none at present

10.6 Inequalities:

The Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership have identified a range of issues regarding inequalities and people involved in the justice system. This will be developed in the publication of an Inverclyde CJOIP during 2023.

11.0 CONSULTATIONS

11.1 This report has been prepared after due consideration with statutory and third sector partners.

12.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

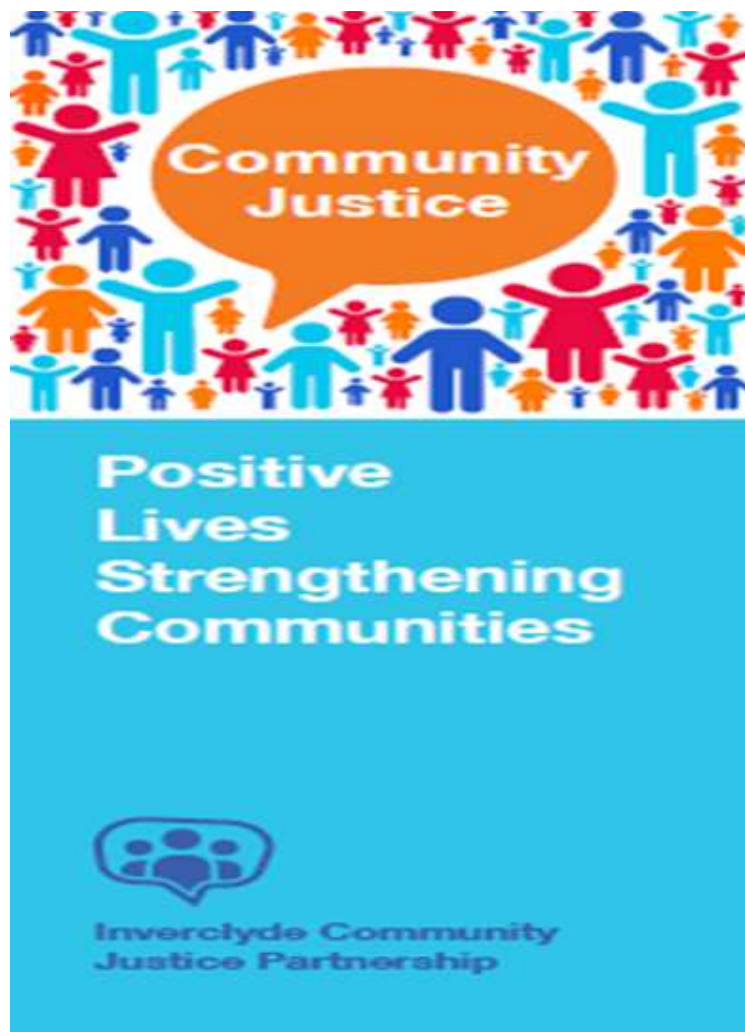
12.1 Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership (04-10-21).

National Strategy for Community Justice –

National Aims and Priority Actions

National aim	Priority action
1. Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity	1. Enhance intervention at the earliest opportunity by ensuring greater consistency, confidence in and awareness of services which support the use of direct measures and diversion from prosecution
	2. Improve the identification of underlying needs and the delivery of support following arrest by ensuring the provision of person-centred care within police custody and building upon referral opportunities to services including substance use and mental health services
2. Ensure that robust and high quality community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland	3. Support the use of robust alternatives to remand by ensuring high quality bail services are consistently available and delivered effectively
	4. Strengthen options for safe and supported management in the community by increasing and widening the use of electronic monitoring technologies
	5. Ensure that those given community sentences are supervised and supported appropriately to protect the public, promote desistance from offending and enable rehabilitation by delivering high quality, consistently available, trauma-informed services and programmes
	6. Ensure restorative justice is available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it by promoting and supporting the appropriate and safe provision of available services
3. Ensure that services are accessible and available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence	7. Enhance individuals' access to health and social care and continuity of care following release from prison by improving the sharing of information and partnership-working between relevant partners
	8. Ensure that the housing needs of individuals in prison are addressed consistently and at an early stage by fully implementing and embedding the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards across all local authority areas
	9. Enhance individual's life skills and readiness for employment by ensuring increased access to employability support through effective education, learning, training, career services and relevant benefit services
	10. Enhance community integration and support by increasing and promoting greater use of voluntary throughcare and third sector services
4. Strengthen the leadership, engagement, and partnership working of local and national community justice partners	11. Deliver improved community justice outcomes by ensuring that effective leadership and governance arrangements are in place and working well, collaborating with partners and planning strategically
	12. Enhance partnership planning and implementation by ensuring the voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families are effectively incorporated and embedded
	13. Support integration and reduce stigma by ensuring the community and workforce have an improved understanding of and confidence in community justice

Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership Annual Report 2021-22



This document can be made available in other languages, large print, and audio format upon request.

Arabic

هذه الوثيقة متاحة أيضا بلغات أخرى والأحرف الطباعية الكبيرة وبطريقة سمعية عند الطلب.

Cantonese

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。

Gaelic

Tha an sgrìobhainn seo cuideachd ri fhaotainn ann an cànanan eile, clò nas motha agus air taip ma tha sibh ga iarraidh.

Hindi

अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की छायाई और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है।

Mandarin

本文件也可應要求，製作成其它語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。

Polish

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany także w innych wersjach językowych, w dużym druku lub w formacie audio.

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਤਿਕਰਾਰ ਹੋਇਆ ਵੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

Urdu

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔

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Inverclyde Community
Justice Partnership

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Foreword

As Chair of Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership I have the delight to present our annual report for 2021-22. This report provides an update of our progress during the reporting year, an update in relation to the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) and shines a spot light on some key activity during the year.

Since 2017, the Partnership has built strong and effective arrangements with a range of statutory, non-statutory and third sector partners across Inverclyde to respond to our vision of “*Improving Lives, Strengthening Communities*”. We know that as we move into our final year of our CJOIP and begin preparation of our new plan that these arrangements will be crucial in continuing to deliver our vision.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partner members and their staffing teams who have worked tirelessly during the last year to ensure we have continued to deliver services for those in need.



Vicki Cloney

Chair of Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership

Partnership Facilitator- CVS Inverclyde

Introduction

This report outlines some highlights of the work undertaken by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership collectively throughout 2021 to 2022 to contribute towards the National Outcomes for Community Justice. Full details of the work undertaken by the Partnership against the national outcomes can be found in the report. Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership are also required by law to report on our progress against the national outcomes to Community Justice Scotland and are also required to publish an annual report.

About Community Justice

The introduction of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (the Act) triggered the formal implementation of the new model of Community Justice in Scotland. A number of key documents are associated with the Act including the National Strategy, Justice in Scotland: Vision & Priorities and the Framework for Outcomes, Performance and Improvement.

The new model for Community Justice places justice planning at a local authority level where decisions can be made by people who know their area best. A legal duty is placed on statutory community justice partners to engage in this planning process and report annually on progress towards improving community justice outcomes. Community justice is defined as:

“The collection of individuals, agencies and services that work together to support, manage and supervise people who have committed offences, from the point of arrest, through prosecution, community disposal or custody and alternatives to these, until they are reintegrated into the community. Local communities and the Third Sector are a vital part of this process which aims to prevent and reduce further offending and the harm that it causes, to promote desistance, social inclusion, and citizenship.”

National Strategy for Community Justice, (2016)

In 2016 the Scottish Government published the first National Strategy for Community Justice which introduced seven national outcomes, progress around these outcomes

are reported by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership to Community Justice Scotland on an annual basis.

In September 2021, the Scottish Government confirmed that a new national strategy for Community Justice would be delivered during the 2021/22 Parliamentary session.

About the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership

The Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership involves a range of statutory and third sector partners working together to reduce reoffending and improve outcomes for people involved in the justice system in Inverclyde. Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership was established on 1st April 2017 and includes the following partners:



To support the national community justice strategy's outcomes, the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership developed a local [Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-22](#). The plan provides an overview of the work of the partnership in relation to the Scottish Government's national outcomes, as well as setting out how the Partnership aims to secure better results for those with convictions, their families, and their victims.

About this annual report

Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership is required under the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 to publish a report on an annual basis on our progress against the national outcomes and where relevant any local outcomes. Additionally Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership are tasked with reporting, on an annual basis, the community justice outcomes and improvements in their area, again with reference to the associated strategy, guidance and framework documents and, when complete, submit those annual reports to Community Justice Scotland (CJS). This is completed by means of a template document and was submitted to CJS in September 2022. This document can be found at www.inverclyde.gov.uk/inverclyde-community-justice-partnership.

Inverclyde CJP Developments in 2021-22

In addition to progress across the seven national outcomes, the Inverclyde CJP undertook the following developments during the reporting year.

- Acknowledging the development work around the publication of a new National Strategy for Community Justice, the Partnership proposed to extend our current Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan by one further year until 2023. This decision allows the Partnership to develop a new local strategy (known as Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan) in line with the new national aims and priority actions of the national strategy as well as awaiting the publication of a new Outcomes Performance Improvement Framework by Community Justice Scotland. We published a [Position Statement](#) to provide more information.
- We provided a response to Inverclyde HSCP in their submission to the Scottish Government regarding proposals for a [National Care Service in Scotland](#) particularly around proposals for justice services and governance arrangements for Community Justice Partnerships.
- A response was provided to the Scottish Government regarding their consultation on [Bail and release from custody arrangements in Scotland](#).
- The completion of a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment (SNSA). The SNSA is a document that helps the Partnership understand service provision and population needs.
- Supporting Parole Board Scotland in identifying local locations under their “Victims Space Initiative”. This means that registered victims of crime have the right to request to observe the prisoner’s parole Tribunal. These observations would take place by video link, preferably from a location convenient for the victim.
- With other Community Justice Partnerships in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area supporting the creation of a mental health and wellbeing resource for people with involvement in the justice system.
- Led by CVS Inverclyde and the Inverclyde Resilience Network led a workshop discussion at the *Challenging Stigma in Inverclyde* around experiences of families with a loved one in Prison, and issues around employability for people with convictions.

Spotlight- Early Action System Change Programme

The National Lottery Community Fund Early Action System Change (EASC) programme awarded £682,250 (inclusive of £75,000 Test of Change monies) to Inverclyde HSCP in 2019. The purpose of the EASC fund is to help make a fundamental shift towards effective early intervention in Scotland. The funding was awarded under the Women and Criminal Justice theme. The project aims to achieve a system change in the response to women in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and seeks to fully involve women with lived experience, ensuring that they co-produce this change.

Two key themes which emerged from engagement with women were a lack of support at their earliest interactions with the CJS and a lack of opportunity for/anxiety around accessing suitable community activities and networks as well as volunteering or employment opportunities. During the year, Phase one of the project has concluded with a Test of Change proposal. The Test of Change proposed is to adopt a trauma informed approach to support women as close to their entry to the CJS as possible. In addition, it will also feature, again with a trauma informed approach, facilitation for opportunities for women to engage in activities, volunteering or employment within their community.

During the reporting year the following activities were undertaken:

- Criminal Justice Social Work have supported the Project Team by giving space within Criminal Justice Social Work unpaid work office to meet women subject to Community Payback Orders on a weekly basis. The result of this has been that a co-production group has formed based on shared experiences of trauma within the Justice System and the Project Team have observed a close supportive network. Additionally, during the reporting year, the Project Team engaged with a range of people across various justice settings (women subject to CPOs, women in Prison) and other relevant settings where women have experience of the justice system (Inverclyde Recovery Hub) within a group setting and one-to-one setting gathering their justice journey's, their experiences within the justice system and their recovery stories thereafter.
- In order to develop trauma informed organisation and services in Inverclyde, it was recommended that, in line with other areas who have commenced with developing trauma informed organisations and services, to in the first instance invite Management and Leaders across relevant organisations to participate in Scottish Trauma Informed Leadership Training (STILT). 9 Managers and Leaders from Inverclyde HSCP and our two main third sector partners in the EASC project, CVS Inverclyde and Your Voice Inverclyde attended STILT Training in December 2021. Recognising the range of leadership across the organisations an additional cohort of Managers and Leaders would attend STILT Training in the 2022-23 year.

Spotlight- Unpaid Work Sub Group

The Unpaid Work sub group (a sub group of the Community Justice Partnership) is made up of CJSW operational managers, the Third Sector interface and the Department of Work and Pensions. During the reporting year group members acknowledged the need to widen the remit of the group by considering the services that should be accessible and available to address the needs of all of those within the Criminal Justice System. In respect of those individuals on a CPO progress was made with colleagues in Inverclyde Council Community Learning and Development to create a learning pathway for those who may wish to consider an adult learning offer. This pathway has been created on the CLD Platform 'Moodle' and allows service users to access adult learning opportunities in both office and home locations. However, acknowledging that adult learning should be offered to people regardless of where they are in their Justice System journey this is likely to be expanded across the wide Criminal Justice Social Work service. Other work progressed through the Unpaid Work Sub Group includes:

- During the reporting year, Justice Social Work commissioned Action for Children (AfC) to provide Unpaid Work placements and other purposeful activity to young people aged 26 years and under. Work projects undertaken included a garden memorial community project and preparing a Christmas Grotto in a local community centre.
- Justice Social Work partnered with Inverclyde Council Community Learning and Development to support community groups awarded voluntary grants. Offers were made to successful community groups looking to carry out ground improvements (painting, ground maintenance) with a number of offers of support accepted. One example was a local bowling club who required support in the painting of a brick outhouse and painting of external metal fence. This work was completed in advance of the commencement of their season and 125th anniversary celebrations.
- Supporting the Council's Community Safety Team to ensure that the assessed Walked Routes to Schools continue to be acceptable by undertaking improvement works across several areas in Inverclyde. Many of the pathways had become overgrown and slippery due to a lack of maintenance during the pandemic. Justice Social Work assisted by carrying out improvement works ensuring paths remain acceptable and thereby ensure that the route can still be utilised.

Developments in 2022/23

During 2022/23 the Community Justice Partnership will undertake a range of activities:

- Development of a Strategic Needs Assessment which will identify a range of community justice needs in the Inverclyde authority area
- Development of an Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan due for publication in 2023
- Engagement with a range of third sector bodies and community bodies in the preparation for our Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan
- Supporting Justice Social Work to introduce the provision of a Bail Supervision service in Inverclyde
- Led by the Inverclyde Resilience Network and CVS Inverclyde supporting the introduction of a Stigma Training Programme which will include resources for those with lived/living experience of the justice system.
- In respect of the Early Action System Change Programme, continue to work around adopting a trauma informed approach and to support women as close to their entry to the criminal justice system as possible.
- Through our Unpaid Work Sub-Group improve the current unpaid work offer to individuals and communities in Inverclyde particularly those areas affected by crime and community safety issues.

Performance Reporting- National Outcomes

The following pages highlights a range of new activities highlighting progress across the seven national outcomes during 2021-22. A full explanation of new activity, existing activity and additional information is available in the return to Community Justice Scotland at <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/inverclyde-community-justice-partnership> . The template also includes some case study examples highlighted in the report to Community Justice Scotland.

NATIONAL OUTCOME ONE Communities improve their understanding and participation in community justice		
	Activity	Impact
What new activities in 2021-22 were driven / undertaken collectively by the community justice partners/hip in relation to outcome one?	<p>(i) The Early Action System Change (EASC) programme the project team engaged with a range of people across various justice settings (women subject to CPOs, women in Prison) and other relevant settings where women have experience of the justice system (Inverclyde Recovery Hub) within a group setting and one-to-one setting gathering their justice journey's, their experiences within the justice system and their recovery stories thereafter.</p> <p>(ii) The Resilience Network led by CVS Inverclyde, organised a 'Challenging Stigma in Inverclyde' event in February 2022. The event brought together a wide range of partners from Inverclyde's third and public sector and from across the Inverclyde community. In order for the Community Justice Partnership to better understand some of these issues there was a focus on families experiencing prison and employability.</p>	<p>(i) The Project Team have commented on the impact of trauma that some of the women have experienced and as a result have offered support around exploring this trauma and where necessary helping with potential improvements around self-confidence, wellbeing and dealing with disclosure.</p> <p>(ii)The justice example focused on having a loved one in prison and some of the learning from that session identified. There was also discussion around the long term stigma even following liberation. One person present said that although they had been liberated for a significant period of time it still follows them about.</p>

NATIONAL OUTCOME TWO Partners plan and deliver services in a more strategic and collaborative way		
	Activity	Impact
What new activities in 2021-22 were driven / undertaken collectively by the community justice partnership in relation to outcome two?	<p>(i) Through the EASC a Test of Change proposal was made to adopt a trauma informed approach to support women as close to their entry to the CJS as possible.</p> <p>(ii) Led by the Inverclyde Alcohol and Drugs Partnership funding has been secured from the Scottish Government for an early help in police custody service.</p>	<p>(i) In order to develop trauma informed organisation and services in Inverclyde, a number of Managers and Leaders participated in Scottish Trauma Informed Leadership Training (STILT). The STILT training programme was created in recognition that trauma informed and responsive practice can only happen in the context of trauma informed and responsive environments, policies, systems and organisations.</p> <p>(ii) The rationale of an Early Help in Police Custody model for Inverclyde was premised on the number of drug related deaths in Inverclyde, the population throughput of people entering Greenock Police Custody Suite and the vulnerabilities of those entering police custody.</p>

NATIONAL OUTCOME THREE People have better access to the services that they require, including welfare, health and wellbeing, housing and employability		
	Activity	Impact
What new activities in 2021-22 were driven / undertaken collectively by the community justice partners/hip in relation to outcome three?	<p>(i) Acknowledging the barriers to employment for those with experience of the justice system, the Partnership have sought to identify the appropriate employability opportunities for individuals with experience of the justice system.</p> <p>(ii) In November 2021, Inverclyde Council approved £1.3M for the creation of the Routes into Supported</p>	<p>(i) The Partnership strengthened pathways with Inverclyde Council CLD and the wider CLD Partnership to promote adult learning opportunities. This includes access to a range of vocational and non-vocational courses which are delivered online and in-person (subject to COVID-19 restrictions).</p>

	<p>Employment (RISE). The RISE staff team have received a range of specialised training to ensure it offers the right support at the right time to the individuals who are long-term unemployed, are in recovery and /or have been affected by mental health issues which may also include justice involvement</p>	<p>(ii) During the reporting year Justice Social Work referred a number of individuals who had met the criteria and had consented via their Social Worker/Criminal Justice Support Worker. Whilst 3 individuals had continued to work with the RISE team a number did not engage either at the stage of referral or once their involvement commenced.</p>
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<p>Other information relevant to outcome 3</p>
<p>Case study 1-</p> <p>Male 'A' is a 23 year old male who had been referred to Action for Children's Unpaid Work (UPW) Service due to various offences that have been building up over the past 2 years. He had agreed to work with Action for Children on both a 1:1 and group basis, to complete his UPW hours and receive additional needs led support to help equip him with skills, tools, certification & qualification to reduce offending.</p> <p>During his time with AfC he engaged in weekly group work and was involved in various aspects offered by the programme including horticulture, landscaping, painting and decorating and working within the community kitchen. Outwith the scheduled UPW, he engaged and interacted with AfC staff on 1:1 basis to work on his emotional wellbeing, including Consequential Thinking, Taking Responsibility for Action, Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Goal Setting, where he engaged throughout and developed the skills to recognise his feelings and link them to his behaviours and offending. He also gained a group of certificates in practical training including Site Safety & Awareness, Health & Safety, Small Plant & Tools, Food & Hygiene in a Kitchen Environment, CITB Health & Safety and Construction Skills Certification Scheme card, giving him the minimum qualifications to access work within the construction industry.</p> <p>He has subsequently completed his hours and continues to engage with another programme in AfC to provide tailored support around emotional and practical supported intervention. Although he has not yet gained employment there is continued focused work to complete to allow him to develop the skills not only to access suitable employment but to sustain it.</p>

NATIONAL OUTCOME FOUR Effective interventions are delivered to prevent and reduce the risk of further offending		
	Activity	Impact
What new activities in 2021-22 were driven / undertaken collectively by the community justice partners/hip in relation to outcome four?	<p>(i) Recognising the relationship between unpaid work activity and community based reparation, there were new approaches identified during the course of the reporting year.</p> <p>(ii) Justice Social Work implemented a Structured Deferred Sentence (SDS) option. SDS aims to provide a structured intervention for individuals upon conviction and prior to final sentencing. In so doing it can help individuals who have offended becoming further drawn into the justice system as well as address the underlying causes of their offending. This complements the range of credible community options available across Inverclyde and was introduced during the reporting year.</p>	<p>(i) Justice Social Work Service partnered with Inverclyde Council Community Learning and Development to support community groups awarded voluntary grants. Offers were made to successful community groups looking to carry out ground improvements (painting, ground maintenance) with a number of offers of support accepted. One example was a local bowling club who required support in the painting of a brick outhouse and painting of external metal fence. This work was completed in advance of the commencement of their season and 125th anniversary celebrations.</p> <p>(ii) Although introduced towards the end of the reporting year, Justice Social Work have been able to support some individuals through SDS. These interventions have allowed the service to provide a person centred, proportionate response.</p>

Other information relevant to outcome 4
<p>Case study 2:</p> <p>B had been unable to work for twenty years due to mental health and addiction issues. His Unpaid Work was initially disrupted by Covid-19 restrictions, but he went on to complete his hours in various work squads, mainly in a horticultural setting. A highlighted in reviews that he got a sense of satisfaction from doing jobs that benefited the community and also acquired skills that he was able to use away from Unpaid Work (e.g., gardening) and felt more confident about seeking employment.</p>

NATIONAL OUTCOME FIVE

Life chances are improved through needs, including health, financial inclusion, housing and safety, being addressed.

	Activity	Impact
What new activities in 2021-22 were driven / undertaken collectively by the community justice partners/hip in relation to outcome five?	<p>(i) Justice Social Work is acutely aware of the deprivation profile of its service user group, with previous analysis indicating that 81% currently experience among the highest levels of deprivation in Scotland, additionally during 2021-22 of all CPO's imposed in 2021-22, 76.2% were linked to SIMD1. In addition both the ongoing effect of the pandemic and the continuing financial crisis has exacerbated issues such as social isolation, substance use and mental health with concern that individuals who are already vulnerable are even more so.</p> <p>(ii) Through statutory returns to The Scottish Government in respect of homelessness applications to Inverclyde HSCP and as part of our preparation of our SNSA, we have identified a recurring cohort of people leaving prison custody and having to present as homeless.</p>	<p>(i) Acknowledging the significance of deprivation locally and its impact on a number of individuals on CPO, Criminal Justice Social Work have responded in a number of ways in supporting individuals. These include providing travel passes for people to attend their site placement, supporting people in making applications to local foodbank and other food options as well as in circumstance providing vouchers for a local supermarket. The service also purchased membership to a local food pantry with a pilot rolling out during 2022/23.</p> <p>(ii) A SPS Information Sharing Protocol allows us to identify individuals suitable for liberation in the forthcoming 12 weeks and through our voluntary throughcare arrangements can commence discussions including housing options. Although the Partnership will promote the use of SHORE Standards, we are aware that there are wider issues including the housing needs/issues of those both on remand and short term sentences and appropriate housing options for those individuals returning to Inverclyde. It is anticipated both through the development of our CJOIP, the development of a new Local Housing Strategy this matter can be progressed.</p>

NATIONAL OUTCOME SIX People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute through education, employment and leisure activities		
	Activity	Impact
How we measure outcome six for individuals.	(i) The Community Justice Partnership have created an unpaid work sub group jointly chaired by the CJP Vice Chair (representing the third sector) and the Criminal Justice Social Work Manager. This group is made up criminal justice social work staff, the third sector interface, Inverclyde Community Learning and Development (CLD) and the Department of Work and Pensions.	(i) Creation of an Adult Learning Pathway with Inverclyde Council CLD and the wider CLD Partnership allowing service user to access a range of learning offers on CLD's Moodle Platform. Discussion progressed during the year to introduce a 'Justice introduction to CLD' that can be utilised by Justice Staff to individuals who may be interested in adult learning.

Other information relevant to outcome 6
<p>Case study – A male subject to a Community Payback Order was struggling to gain employment in the field he had qualifications for. Throughout the period of his CPO he had applied for several job unsuccessfully. He decided it may be appropriate to consider alternative options and through 'Other Activity' undertook an online course with West College Scotland. He successfully completed the course and gained employment in the health and social care sector.</p>

NATIONAL OUTCOME SEVEN

Individuals' resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced

	Activity	Impact												
<p>How we measure outcome seven for individuals.</p>	<p>(i) Justice Social Work uses a Criminal Justice Needs Review Tool and outcomes of interventions which highlights the experience of those individuals subject to statutory involvement with criminal justice social work services. This matrix below outlines the experiences of criminal justice service users throughout their order/licence and is helpful as it embeds a person-centric approach by the Service. Additionally overtime it will help the Partnership understand the impact of the service and where both partnership and agency improvements could be made.</p>	<p>(i) The matrix below highlights the outcomes of interventions for individuals on CPOs through Unpaid Work and Other Activity with a view to enabling them to reduce their risk of further offending. This embeds a person-centric approach by the Service and helps service users understand where they are within their Justice journey. This helps to identify potential Partnership and Service improvements.</p> <div data-bbox="1182 507 2027 1141" data-label="Figure"> <p>Outcome of Intervention- average scores (max=5)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Score</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>purpose of a CPO</td> <td>4.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I am better able to set and achieve goals</td> <td>4.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>My self awareness has increased</td> <td>4.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I have improved my ability to solve problems</td> <td>4.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In understand how I am affected by feelings and emotions</td> <td>4.1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p>Similarly Criminal Justice Social Work service utilises a 'Criminal Justice Needs Review' self-assessment tool which empowers individuals to score themselves in a number of lifestyle areas and in so doing helps to ensure/evidence our approach to addressing needs is person centric.</p>	Category	Score	purpose of a CPO	4.4	I am better able to set and achieve goals	4.3	My self awareness has increased	4.2	I have improved my ability to solve problems	4.1	In understand how I am affected by feelings and emotions	4.1
Category	Score													
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		<p>A sample of completed CPOs during 2021/2022 was considered specifically with regards to identifying what the needs of service users were and measuring whether their needs were met by CJSW.</p> <p>Through the case sampling exercise, it was evident that in all cases where need was identified a positive outcome was evidenced. For example in the sample of files read 33% were identified as having need in relation to finances and in all of those cases there were positive outcomes evidenced in this area. This demonstrates that not only were the Service interventions continuing to be effective, despite the pandemic, but also that we were consistently targeting our interventions on an individualised basis.</p>
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<p>Other information relevant to outcome 7</p>
<p>Case study – X commenced a Community Payback Order with a Supervision Requirement. Work identified included pro-social thinking, addressing his isolation, victim empathy and consequential thinking. Through focussed sessions with his allocated worker he reflected on his index offence and the impact this has had on his relationships especially with one of his children. No further offending has been reported and in addition X has been making efforts to tackle his social isolation by joining a local club where he is now actively involved in supporting its running. Positive Outcomes achieved for X have been in respect of relationships, community inclusion, desistance and confidence.</p>



Inverclyde Alliance

AGENDA ITEM NO: 11

Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	13 March 2023
Report By:	Director, Environment and Regeneration, Inverclyde Council	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Jennifer Horn	Contact No:	01475 715573
Subject:	Inverclyde Task Force Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Inverclyde Alliance Board with an update on the Inverclyde Task Force.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Since its inception three Task Force meetings have taken place, namely in June 2022, October 2022, and January 2023. These meetings have been multi-agency meetings involving the UK Government, Scottish Government, Inverclyde Council, and many national and local organisations.

2.2 The Inverclyde Task Force paper which was noted at the meeting of the Inverclyde Council on 1 December 2022 set out that there would be six-monthly update papers, however due to the recent news regarding the potential closure of Amazon's Fulfilment Centre in Gourock it was considered necessary for an update paper following the January Task Force meeting. The report also includes an update on localities and engagement.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Alliance Board note the activity of the Inverclyde Task Force.

Stuart W. Jamieson
Director Environment and Regeneration

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Inverclyde Task Force was set up to address the socio-economic imbalance which Inverclyde currently faces. Three Task Force Meetings have now taken place. The first in June 2022, the second in October 2022 and the third in January 2023. All three have had Ministerial presence and they have been supported by senior civil servants from both the UK and Scottish Governments, senior officers from public sector agencies, as well as support from local stakeholders such as West College Scotland and the Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce.
- 4.2 The first meeting focused on the Fraser of Allander report with a presentation from Professor Mairi Spowage. Discussions at the meeting then focused on the importance of addressing population decline, increasing affordable housing, implementing employment initiatives, and improving local infrastructure.
- 4.3 At the October Task Force there was a presentation on the bids that were underway for Shared Prosperity, Levelling Up, Green Freeports as well as projects that had secured funding and are being delivered; Greenock Ocean Terminal, Inchgreen and Inverkip. The Chamber of Commerce presented findings of the business survey through which members highlighted key challenges such as recruitment, connectivity, and increasing costs. A presentation on a land and business premises survey highlighted that while there was some availability some land/properties required significant investment before they could be developed therefore making them less competitive when compared with sites where investment has been made to increase the attractiveness of land/property. Further updates were also given regarding the work of the Local Employability Partnership and the Economy Group by the Chief Executive and the Interim Director – Environment and Regeneration respectively. The minutes are available at Appendix 1.
- 4.4 The third Task Force meeting took place on 23 January 2023 and the agenda included: Amazon, updates from sub-groups, presentation from the Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub and update on bids.

4.5 Amazon

The Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise gave an update on his discussions with Amazon regarding their announcement to close the Gourrock Fulfilment Centre. He stated his disappointment regarding the lack of information been given by Amazon from his first meeting but went on to advise that they have agreed to continue engagement. The Minister indicated that Skills Development Scotland are leading through their Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE). At this time discussions centred around whether it is possible for Amazon to continue operating from Gourrock and then supporting the employees to move to alternative employments/training. In addition, the Minister stated that Amazon had agreed to engage with the Task Force meetings and through discussions it was agreed that a separate subgroup with the sole focus of Amazon should be created. Further discussions highlighted that many organisations had been approached by local employers who have presented employment opportunities for any Amazon employee. It was agreed that SDS should be the lead organisation and any information or offers of support should be channelled through SDS to ensure that information was coordinated and clear.

4.6 Subgroup Updates

The Director, Environment and Regeneration gave an update on the business subgroup which has had its first meetings. It is hoped that, through members networks and opportunities explored to attract other businesses and individuals to Inverclyde. In 2020/21 Inverclyde had a strong business start-up rate which exceeded the wider Renfrewshire target despite the impact of Covid. In 2021/22 the start-up rate continues to be strong and exceeds the numbers achieved for the same quarters in previous years.

4.7 The Director of Environment and Regeneration also updated that officers are exploring opportunities for cluster and growth sectors, particularly in the marine and manufacturing sector. Discussions are taking place with key businesses/employers and also with the UK and Scottish Government officials.

4.8 The Chief Executive provided an update on the Local Employability Partnership and the decision to create a separate Task Force subgroup which is due to have its first meeting on the 10 February 2023. In addition, the Chief Executive gave an update on the progress of the HSCP who are working to create a Social Care Academy.

4.9 **Intelligence Hub – Presentation on Skills Gaps and Opportunities**

The Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub provided a presentation on how Inverclyde can assess at a very local level the gap in skills, what is required now and what is required for the future and options/opportunities to boost skills and employability. The Intelligence Hub carried out a desk top based study, building upon the recommendations of the Fraser of Allander report which was presented at the first Task Force. The Intelligence Hub highlighted challenges of low business activity, skill supply to meet employment demand, and the scale of the inclusion task. They also highlighted opportunities of building on existing specialisms and opportunities that are place specific e.g. marine, opportunities e.g. human health and growth sectors e.g. scientific and technical activities. The presentation concluded with next steps which is recommended to further the desk top study with community and business engagement.

4.10 **Update on Bids**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration gave an update on Green Freeport and Levelling Up bids. The Clyde Green Freeport was unfortunately unsuccessful. The Clyde Green Freeport Bid was a partnership between AGS Airports' Glasgow Airport, Mossend International Railfreight Park, Peel Ports' Clydeport, Renfrewshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Glasgow City and Inverclyde Council. The partners are working with the UK and Scottish Governments to learn from the bid and where possible realise elements of the bid.

4.11 Inverclyde Council's bid to the UK Government's Levelling Up to transform the heart of Greenock Town Centre was successful. Inverclyde Council has been awarded £19.39m, the full amount asked for, of a £21.586m project to create new civic spaces, a restructured more outward looking town centre retail offer, improve links between various parts of the town centre and the waterfront and build in capacity for a potential new education/college facility or town centre housing. The Levelling Up Fund project will remove the A78 flyover bringing the road to ground level to increase access, remove the bullring roundabout, and 40 per cent of the existing indoor retail space in the Oak Mall, including Hector McNeil House.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Legal: None
Finance: None
Human Resources: None
Equality and Diversity: None
Repopulation/Inequalities: The Task Force is aiming to achieve outcomes of the LOIP in relation to depopulation, economic development, employability and creating a successful place.

6.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 N/A

7.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 N/A

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Inverclyde Taskforce Group
Monday 24 October 2022 at 10.30 am
Via Webex**

PRESENT

Stuart McMillan	MSP (Chair)
Councillor Stephen McCabe	Leader of Inverclyde Council
Louise Long	Chief Executive – Inverclyde Council
Councillor Elizabeth Robertson	Inverclyde Council
Councillor Lynne Quinn	Inverclyde Council
Councillor Graeme Brooks	Inverclyde Council
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development – Inverclyde Council
Stuart Jamieson	Interim Director – Environment & Regeneration – Inverclyde Council
Jennifer Horn	Regeneration Manager – Inverclyde Council
Lord Offord of Garvel	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to the Scotland Office
Heather Allan	Executive Assistant to Lord Offord
John Cooper	Special Advisor to the Under Secretary of State to the Scotland Office
Sharon Kelly	Head of Operations (West Region) – Skills Development Scotland
Paul Zealey	Regional Skills Planning Lead – Skills Development Scotland
Liz Cameron	Director and Chief Executive, Scottish Chambers of Commerce
Mark Spragg	President – Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce
David McCarrey	Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Liz Connolly	Principal – West College Scotland
Hisashi Kuboyama	Development Manager – Federation of Small Businesses
Ronnie Cowan	MP
Gavin McDonagh	Riverside Inverclyde
Andrew Docherty	Glasgow City Region Lead – CLGU Scotland
Miriam Simpson	Head of City Deals & Levelling Up, Scotland Office
Colin Cook	Scottish Government Official
Ivan McKee MSP	Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise
Patricia Dowd	Department for Work and Pensions

IN ATTENDANCE

Lisa Mitchell	Chief Executive's Office
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APOLOGIES

Laurence Rockey	Director – Scotland Office
Lauren Bruce	Scotland Office
Councillor Michael McCormick	Inverclyde Council
George Barbour	Service Manager: Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety – Inverclyde Council
Jamie Greene	MSP
Neil Bibby	MSP

ACTION

1. (a) Welcome, Apologies & Introductions

Stuart McMillan (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

(b) Actions of Previous Meeting – 27 June 2022

Louise Long explained that there was an officer group and 2 subgroups; one for economy chaired by Stuart Jamieson and Louise will join the Local Employability Partnership Group to ensure sufficient focus in the right areas.

2. Current Bids

Stuart Jamieson gave a presentation on the current bids for Inverclyde and live regeneration projects. The following was highlighted:

- **Greenock Ocean Terminal** – new dedicated cruise passenger is being built with a museum, gallery space and restaurant. It is expected that there will be 184,900 visitors to Greenock in 2023.
- **Inchgreen** – joint venture, created between the Council with Peel Ports – unlocked deep water marine access with investment of £9.3 million for the area to the West of the Dry Dock. Other than having preferential rates for JV users, the Drydock remains exclusively within the control of Peel.
- **Inverkip** – trunk road improvements at Main Street and Brueacre. Business Case will be submitted to City Deal PMO by April 2023.
- **Shared Prosperity Fund** – awaiting feedback.
- **Levelling Up Fund** - £22 million bid for Greenock Town Centre. The bid proposes the removal of 40% of the Oak Mall Shopping Centre and the bullring car park) and creates a cultural venue.
- **Clyde Green Freeport bid** – awaiting feedback. Air, rail and water bid across the City Region.

Stuart McMillan thanked Stuart Jamieson for his presentation and opened up the meeting for questions / comments.

Councillor McCabe asked for an update in relation to the Drydock at Inchgreen. Stuart advised of the following:

- Extensive discussions took place with Scottish Salmon in relation to the development of a processing plant for the drydock but unfortunately Scottish Salmon have confirmed they have pursued another area.
- Marketing of the site is underway but infrastructure works are required. Councillor McCabe advised that he is keen for any commercial viable proposals to be pursued.
- Plater's Shed is complete – additional work in surrounding area is required before letting out.
- Atlas Decommissioning continues to rent space at the site.
- Regular discussions taking place with Clyde Fisheries about possibilities.

Andrew Docherty advised that a decision should be available for the turn of the year in relation to the bids for Levelling Up and Green Freeports.

Liz Cameron asked if there are any contingency plans for alternative opportunities if the Levelling Up fund or Green Freeport bids are unsuccessful.

Stuart Jamieson confirmed there are no other contingency plans for Levelling Up or Green Freeports however it was agreed that an officer group will consider alternatives.

LL / SJ

3. Business Survey

Mark Spragg gave a presentation on the findings of a survey undertaken with the Chamber of Commerce members. It was noted that there were 65 respondents to the survey – the following was highlighted:

- 60% report that current outturn has declined by more than 10% since the start of the pandemic.
- 64% report challenges in obtaining supplies.
- 57% report they had not changed employee salaries / benefits in the last 12 months.
- 47% report that recruitment has become more difficult.
- 67% do not export – issues impacting businesses ability to grow in Inverclyde include labour/skills shortages, access to business support, insufficient demand, transport links and connectivity. It was highlighted that Brexit has had little impact on exports.
- 29% felt that their current facilities did not provide value.
- 32.3% felt poorly connected.
- Over 50% have not discussed housing quality with employees. Of those who have discussed housing, 31% thought housing was poor / very poor. It was agreed for a piece of work to undertaken in relation to housing for the Taskforce.

SJ

Stuart McMillan thanked Mark for his presentation and opened up the meeting for questions / comments.

Mark concluded that the pressures for Inverclyde include supply chain and associated costings, labour / skills shortage and lack of available funds. Mark also highlighted that there is a high level of congestion driving into / out of Greenock.

It was highlighted that there are about 2,000 businesses in Inverclyde with less than 9 employees. The different clusters of businesses were noted – health and social care, shipping / marine, small retail, small professional and materials / construction.

Mark gave an example on why he located his business in Hillington rather than Inverclyde. It was noted that there were only two locations in Inverclyde which merited consideration – the Custom House Quay and premises in Gourrock.

Liz Cameron advised that more work can be done for businesses in relation to importing and exporting. She advised that housing is a challenge and suggested that more private housing is required. Liz suggested further discussions were needed with property developers.

Hisashi Kuboyama advised that the number of small businesses operating in Inverclyde is in the bottom 3 in Scotland. It was noted that as of August 2021 around 900 Covid loans (£37 million) were provided to businesses in Inverclyde which will need to be repaid.

Ruth Binks highlighted that a Senior Phase Action Group has been set up to look at the pipeline of support and support the right career choice for young people. Education Services are working with West College Scotland and Skills Development Scotland to look at how young people can be skilled in line with local employment opportunities. Liz Connolly agreed that further discussions are required.

RB

Ivan McKee advised that work has been undertaken at a Scottish level in relation to exporting. He suggested that it could be beneficial to invite a representative from Scottish Development International (SDI) to attend the next meeting of the Taskforce to provide updates in relation to overseas businesses investing in Scotland. Ivan indicated that we need to know our target market for inward investment. Data from the Inward Investment Plan (which is 3 years old) puts Inverclyde as no. 8 in the rankings (behind Edinburgh and ahead of Glasgow). Ivan highlighted that many businesses do not wish to export – focus needs to be given to those businesses who have the capacity to export.

LL / SJ

It was agreed for a further survey to be undertaken with businesses with different questions including understanding the need for export advice. Agreed to widen the questionnaire to bigger businesses in the area – Stuart Jamieson and Mark will progress.

SJ / MS

4. Business Premises

Jennifer Horn gave a presentation on a desk top exercise of site visits to Inverclyde. The following was highlighted:

Land

- Significant variant in vacant and derelict land – most of the land is brownfield sites. It was noted that Inverkip and Spango Valley are the largest vacant sites.
- Site investigation works have not been undertaken.
- Port Glasgow and Greenock have mostly amber sites – reasonable condition but would benefit from upgrade.
- White sites were noted as in poor condition, no marketing potential without significant investment.
- James Watt Dock and Harbour – various cluster of vacant land.
- Inchgreen – strategic investment location.
- Inverkip – has planning permission in principle for housing.
- Port Glasgow – Riverside Inverclyde development at Kelburn.

Property

- Retail spaces are small, largest retail property is within the Oak Mall Shopping Centre. It was highlighted that national retailers require larger properties.
- Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock have mostly amber sites.

Stuart McMillan thanked Jennifer Horn for her presentation and opened up the meeting for questions / comments.

Sharon Kelly asked how hybrid working is impacting on Inverclyde. It was noted that the way of working has changed. Ivan highlighted that there is little appetite for real estate space.

5. Skills Academy

Louise provided the following updates:

- Liaison is taking place with partners and other areas to renew their work on skills academies.
- Initial feedback from LEP shows that Inverclyde has good figures in relation to positive destinations but are they the right destinations?
- Update – currently 125 apprenticeships across the Council due to additional monies invested by the Council.
- Expanded offer between Inverclyde Council, Kickstart and the Scottish Government.
- Update – RISE Project - £1 million project for those in recovery from addiction.
- Refresh Scheme.
- Covid Recovery.
- Health & Social Care shortfall – officers will meet with West College Scotland to consider the support available.
- Intelligence Hub – waiting on data in relation to skills supply and future gaps in skills. It was agreed for the Intelligence Hub to present at the

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next meeting of the Taskforce.

Councillor Brooks highlighted that there could be an opportunity to fund a bid into the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA). Officers agreed to look at the ARIA and Innovation Fund.

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6. Next Steps

The next steps /actions were agreed as follows:

- An officers group will be established to look at alternative proposals if funding bids are unsuccessful.
- Housing – undertake a deeper dive to understand the Inverclyde housing market.
- SDI – invite a representative to a future meeting.
- Wider survey to the whole business base.
- Ensure business engagement with taskforce through the Economic Group.
- Intelligence Hub – presentation to the next meeting of the Taskforce.
- Consider ARIA bid.

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7. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed for the next meeting to take place in late January – it was noted that the preference is for the meeting to take place on a Monday.

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