

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
Inverclyde Taskforce Group  
Monday 26 June 2023 at 10.30 am  
Boardroom 1 / Webex**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Stephen McCabe	Leader of Inverclyde Council (Chair)
Stuart McMillan	MSP
Ronnie Cowan	MP
Louise Long	Chief Executive – Inverclyde Council
Councillor Elizabeth Robertson	Inverclyde Council
Councillor Lynne Quinn	Inverclyde Council
George Barbour	Service Manager: Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety – Inverclyde Council
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development – Inverclyde Council
Stuart Jamieson	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
Paul Zealey	Regional Skills Planning Lead – Skills Development Scotland
Lizzy Todd	President – Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce
David McCarrey	Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Liz Connolly	Principal – West College Scotland
Vikki Halliday	Governance & Assurance Unit Head – Ferguson Marine at The Scottish Government
John Clements	Private Secretary to Richard Lochhead, Scottish Government
David Clarke	Rapid Response Unit Policy Officer, Scottish Government
Diane Buchanan	Civil Servant, Scottish Government
Rachel Phillips	Regional Economic Policy Unit, Scottish Government
Liz Cameron	Director and Chief Executive, Scottish Chambers of Commerce
Andrew Docherty	Glasgow City Region Lead – CLGU Scotland
Miriam Simpson	Head of City Deals & Levelling Up, Scotland Office
Richard Lochhead	Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade
Eilidh Clements	Policy Advisor (Clyde Mission, Directorate for Economic Development, Scottish Government)
Patricia Dowd	Department for Work and Pensions
Neil Bibby	MSP
Lizzie Davies	Team Leader, City and Growth Deals Team, Scotland Office

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Lisa Mitchell	Chief Executive's Office
David Tydeman	CEO, Ferguson Marine

**APOLOGIES**

Laurence Rockey	Director – Scotland Office
Lauren Bruce	Scotland Office
Hisashi Kuboyama	Development Manager – Federation of Small Businesses
Sharon Kelly	Head of Operations (West Region) – Skills Development Scotland
Jamie Greene	MSP
Stephen White	Head – Community Wealth Building (Scottish Government)
Councillor Michael McCormick	Inverclyde Council
Councillor David Wilson	Inverclyde Council
Gavin McDonagh	Riverside Inverclyde

## 1. (a) Welcome, Apologies & Introductions

Councillor McCabe (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

## (b) Minutes / Actions from Previous Meeting – 27 March 2023

The minutes from the previous meeting on 27 March 2023 were approved and the following updates were noted:

- Investment Zones – Stuart Jamieson advised it is likely that an announcement will be made on 30 June 2023.
- Levelling Up – Miriam Simpson advised that Lord Offord had written to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Michael Gove) – the potential for the clipper event for Inverclyde was mentioned which will be followed up. Louise indicated that contact has been made with the events team at the Scottish Government.

## 2. Amazon Update

The following updates were noted:

- Report was sent to the Scottish Government last month which will now be made available to taskforce members – Paul Zealey will circulate after the meeting. Once the report has been shared it can be ascertained if there are any opportunities for further engagement. PZ
- 12% response rate to the survey.
- 50% in employment and 50% looking for employment. Barriers to employment include competition for jobs, location of jobs and age profile. Liz Cameron asked what work is taking place to alleviate barriers to employment. Stuart advised that he is happy to be part of conversations going forward.
- 323 individuals were contacted through PACE.
- Amazon has not provided funding for upskilling / reskilling to employees after their leaving date. Stuart advised he will liaise with the HR Director at Amazon for clarification. Liz Connolly indicated that she is happy to be part of any conversations going forward. SJ
- Legacy – Stuart advised a definitive list is awaited from Amazon which should be received by the end of July 2023.
- Building – Stuart advised that there are prospective tenants for the building. It was highlighted that the lease expires in February 2024.

## 3. Ferguson Update

David Tydeman gave a confidential presentation Ferguson Marine.

Councillor McCabe highlighted that Ferguson Marine is a crucial employer in Inverclyde. The Taskforce needs to use its influence to support the workforce and to ensure the survival of the shipyard.

## 4. Inverclyde Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Partnership

Stuart gave a presentation on the Port Glasgow Levelling Up Fund Partnership Pilot. The following was highlighted:

- Focus on Port Glasgow (Shore Street, King Street, Church Street and Princes Street).
- Transform Port Glasgow as a great place to live, work, learn, visit and enjoy, transform life opportunities for young people, transform sense of place and

transform job opportunities.

- Build on experience from English LUF partnerships.
- £20 million required to establish but further funding will be required.
- Project Catalysts – civic hub, town living, urban square and urban play. Opportunities for small businesses and affordable housing.
- Opportunity for Inverclyde to have the first Scottish LUF partnership.

Councillor McCabe indicated that support from various agencies and the Scottish and UK Governments is required for the LUF partnership bid.

Andrew advised that it is still early days for LUF partnerships – the Scottish Government will shape this in relation to planning and design.

Richard Lochhead indicated that he is hopeful that by the next Taskforce meeting there will be further developments in relation to investment zones and LUF partnerships. Richard advised he will make arrangements to visit Inverclyde in the coming weeks.

**RL**

## **5. AOB**

Stuart McMillan suggested organising Taste of Inverclyde events, particularly for the business sector, at the Greenock Ocean Terminal which was agreed.

**SM**

Ronnie Cowan indicated that the Port Glasgow Fire Station are keen to relocate (currently located beside Fergusons). Stuart advised that liaison is taking place with Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue in relation to possible sharing of premises / alternative premises.

Lord Offord advised of the positive visit to Inverclyde by Sarah Healey, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. She visited the LUF project and met with some members of the Inverclyde Taskforce.

## **6. Next Steps**

The next steps /actions were agreed as follows:

- Paul to circulate the Amazon report.
- Investment Zones – update.
- Ferguson Marine – a separate meeting is required with relevant individuals. A sub group will be established, and an update will be presented to the next Taskforce meeting.
- Follow up meetings to be arranged with the Scottish Government in relation to a LUF partnership with Inverclyde.
- Next meeting to take place in 12 weeks' time.

**PZ  
SJ**

**LL / SJ**