

Report To: Inverclyde Council **Date:** 21 February 2019

Report By: Corporate Director Environment,
Regeneration & Resources **Report No:** LP/029/19

Contact Officer: Sharon Lang **Contact No:** 01475 712112

Subject: Creating a Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre Incorporating a Scottish
Holocaust-era Study Centre – Request from Councillor McCabe

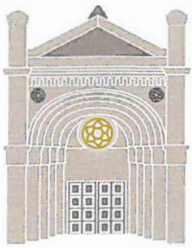
1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of a request received from Councillor McCabe that consideration be given to the attached letter received from the Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre.
- 1.2 The letter provides information on the creation of a Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre incorporating a Scottish Holocaust-era Study Centre based at Garnethill Synagogue, Glasgow and requests an annual grant of £2,000-£5,000 from year 2019/2020 to help deliver the project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Council is asked to consider the request from Councillor McCabe.

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services



**Stephen McCabe-Council Leader
Inverclyde Council**

27th January 2019

Dear Mr. McCabe

**Creating a Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre incorporating a Scottish
Holocaust-era Study Centre**

Following a four-year development period, we are delighted to advise you that a unique Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre incorporating a Scottish Holocaust-era Study Centre, is now being created through a partnership between two charitable trusts- the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre (SJAC) and Garnethill Synagogue Preservation Trust (GSPT)

We believe this national Centre will greatly enhance resources available to teachers and lecturers in schools and colleges within your Authority's jurisdiction, and we are requesting financial support to help us fund the ongoing revenue costs for the new Centre.

The new Centre, scheduled to open in late 2019, or early 2020, is based in Garnethill Synagogue - the oldest purpose built synagogue in Scotland, a grade A listed building, opened in 1879 and located in the heart of the city of Glasgow.

The new Centre will build on the achievements of SJAC, which for over thirty years has been gathering and caring for Scotland's Jewish archive collections and developing a range of research and public services helping schools and students, academics, family history researchers and tourists from all parts of Scotland and beyond.

Jewish communities developed in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen and formerly in Ayr, Dunfermline, Inverness, Greenock and Falkirk. During the Second World War, Jewish refugee adults and children were looked after and assisted in many places in Scotland.

Now we can significantly expand access to these unique and inspiring collections and offer a regular trained volunteer led weekday-guiding service, an expanded school visit service and a new weekend events and activities programme

In the coming year, we will be creating the new resources, including the Scottish Holocaust-era Study Centre equipped with digital and hands on

learning materials and library, giving access for the first time to unique collections revealing the experiences of refugees, fleeing Nazi Europe before,



during and after the Second World War, who found refuge here in Scotland, and have gone on to contribute to Scottish life and society.

We will also install new displays on Glasgow, Edinburgh and Ayrshire and on the architecture and history of the Synagogue and present information about the early Jews who came to Scotland, charting their progress over 200 years.

We are grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Association of Jewish Refugees, The Federal Republic of Germany, and The Wolfson Family Charitable Trust, whose grants are funding the capital works to create the Centre.

In recent years, we have worked with a wide range of organisations including the Holocaust Education Trust (HET), the Anne Frank Trust, Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities, primary and secondary schools, colleges and community organisations, who all welcome and support this Centre.

However, as neither the SJAC nor GSPT are in receipt of regular public funding, the partners must now actively seek the funds to meet the annual operational costs of the Centre once it is up and running.

We estimate for the first five years an annual net operating cost of £55,000. This includes a permanent new post of a Centre manager to coordinate and promote activity, for recruitment and training of volunteers, for cleaning, caretaking, IT and communication and appropriate security arrangements. Alongside the project activity, the partners will maintain the Archive collections (SJAC) and the historic building (GSPT).

We hope you will see from this brief letter just how much our Centre will offer Scotland on a national basis and locally to your Authority, most especially in the vital areas of Heritage, Education, Judaism, the Holocaust period, Community Cohesion and Tourism.

Accordingly, we would be most grateful if you could assist us with an annual grant of £2,000-£5,000 from year 2019/2020 to help us deliver our Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre project.

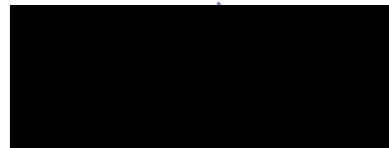
Grants are payable to the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre.

We would be happy to meet with you to provide fuller information and answer your questions, and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Haase MA (Hons) AMA
Project Co-ordinator and Lead



Harvey M. Livingston C.A.
Chair- Project fundraising Team