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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Executive Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>16 June 2020</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LP/067/20</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Aubrey Fawcett</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712701</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Scrutiny Report</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report updates the Sub-Committee on actions taken by officers of the Council in order to address and mitigate the risks arising from the COVID-19 emergency.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 As approved at the Executive Sub-Committee's previous meeting, this report ensures there is Elected Member oversight and scrutiny of all actions implemented by officers in the COVID-19 emergency. Officers have taken actions based upon the principles that essential services continue to be delivered to the public, wherever possible, and the core business of the Council is maintained with key regard to the safety of its workforce.
- 2.2 The Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 24 March 2020 authorised the suspension of all Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings for the duration of the emergency and delegated full powers in the emergency to this Executive Sub-Committee. This report ensures that Members have clear oversight of all actions taken by relevant officers and with particular regard to service impact.
- 2.3 The items in the **Appendix 1** are updates of actions taken since the previous meeting and are detailed for Member scrutiny. The Executive Sub-Committee will wish to review the appendix for the strategic direction taken in response to the emergency and also for their assessment of how the operational aims of maintaining crucial public services whilst safeguarding the workforce were achieved. The log of actions is indicative of the position on Wednesday 10 June 2020.
- 2.4 Reports in this format with relevant updates are being made to each meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Sub-Committee:

- 3.1 notes the actions taken to date to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 emergency in Inverclyde;
- 3.2 notes that further reports will be submitted regularly for Members' scrutiny and review;
- 3.3 notes the proposed arrangements in paragraphs 5.7 to 5.9 for the re-opening of schools;
- 3.4 agrees to the continuation of the support for pupils would were in receipt of Free School Meals for the 2019/20 academic year until 28 August 2020 and approve the funding route outlined in Section 5 of the report; and

- 3.5 grants delegated powers for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency to the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources to grant the Council's consent as landowner for relevant applications as may be considered appropriate in consultation with other relevant officers, but otherwise to remit it to the Corporate Director to report to the Executive Sub-Committee for consideration of any applications for landowner's consent where refusal is recommended.

**Aubrey Fawcett**  
**Chief Executive**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council and its partners have been working to implement arrangements to deal with the ongoing response to the COVID-19 emergency. These arrangements are based upon an established corporate and incident response structure. Staff are able, by virtue of their roles and responsibilities, to deal with the emergency and it is recognised that the challenges posed by the current circumstances are profound and will require a continuous process of planning and preparation until its conclusion.
- 4.2 Internal and external communications, all decision-making by officers and the response arrangements are already firmly established through existing strategic and tactical meeting structures. The Corporate Management Team (CMT) is responsible for the strategic response and the tactical arrangements are discussed and proposed through the Council's Resilience Management Team (CRMT) (which also incorporates the Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (H&SCP)). Additionally, the HSCP has activated its Local Management Resilience Team (LMRT) in which the Council has a number of representatives and this ensures that the Council and the HSCP are entirely joined up in decision-making. From a multi-agency perspective, the LMRT contributes to a Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board-wide gold command structure which covers acute, primary and social care. The Council is meeting weekly with multi-agency partners through the West Local Resilience Partnership (WLRP). At a strategic level LRP is also now operating at the level of the Health Board and this incorporates the six constituent Councils and appropriate multi-agency partners.

## 5.0 CURRENT ISSUES

- 5.1 The decisions noted in **Appendix 1** have been taken by the CMT on the basis of tactical updates provided by the CRMT and, also, assessment by the relative Corporate Directors and their teams. Notwithstanding the developing situation, a clear audit trail of all decisions has been maintained with relevant but brief, focused backing papers being circulated for consideration and decision at the CMT daily meetings.
- 5.2 In addition to the daily briefings which have been immediately implemented by the CMT to ensure that all Members of the Council had advance notice of any service impact decisions, there continues to be constant dialogue and contact with relevant Conveners and, where appropriate, Minority Group spokespersons/contacts on key issues.
- 5.3 It has to be noted that there continues to be many operational demands on the Council by reason of the emergency, but as the situation to an extent stabilises in part in relation to workforce issues, it is the intention to continue to report in this format to the Executive Sub-Committee for purposes of scrutiny and review of all decisions.
- 5.4 Although a significant number of decisions have been taken across the range of Council services, the following key issues are identified and summarised as ongoing items for Members' information and for future business-planning:

### **HSCP**

- 5.5 Across HSCP services continue to deliver a blended support with more face to face contacts taking place, alongside telephone and the use of technology. Reviews of care packages for people are being considered in line with the need for social distancing. All buildings have been assessed and plans are in place to increase the number of staff when appropriate.
- 5.6 **COVID-19 Assessment Centre (CAC)** was established and opened on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. This was in response to the pandemic and to provide a locality based service to support rapid community clinical patient assessment of respiratory COVID-19 symptoms. This has been monitored via the Local LMRT group and the NHS GGC Assessment Group. The demand for this service has been reducing over the past few weeks and review across the board area has resulted in reduction in CACs as part of the recovery response. The Board Tactical/SEG has decided that from the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the centre will reduce from 100 weekly slots to 50 slots providing a community assessment centre in the afternoons. The location at Greenock Heath centre will remain the same and the clinical pathways are being reviewed to support this phase.

The COVID-19 testing arrangements are reported separately in Section 6 of this report.

## **EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES**

### **Re-opening of schools:**

- 5.7 The Scottish Government has now issued further guidance about the expectations of the date for re-opening schools. Schools will open for teachers on Tuesday 11 August for one in-service day rather than two. The schools will open for pupils on Wednesday 12 August. The additional inset day will be allocated to Friday 4 September.
- 5.8 **Secondary Schools:** All secondary schools will open to 50% of pupils in August. The timetable will be as close to the phase 4 timetable as possible and columns to enable consortium arrangements to remain the same. The timetable for teaching will be as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Group A	Group B	Group A	Group B	Group A
Week 2	Group B	Group A	Group B	Group A	Group B

Siblings will be in the same group and secondary schools will provide their own childcare hubs. Pupils in the senior phase will be given priority for any extra teaching periods as will pupils who require additional support.

Schools will be open approximately an hour before the teaching day begins and will remain open approximately an hour after the teaching time stops.

- 5.9 **Primary Schools:** The model for primary schools will be as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A	Group A	Childcare only	Group B	Group B

On the first week back in August 2020, primary schools will be open for P1 pupils and those requiring an extra visit for enhanced transition arrangements on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August. Group A will attend on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August and Group B will attend on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August.

A recent survey has been undertaken for childcare needs and officers are working through the requirements for this in the August term. It is expected that further national guidance will be developed.

- 5.10 **Childcare over the summer holidays:** A recent survey has been sent out to parents asking key workers for their childcare needs. Childcare for those under 8 will be provided by the 52 week early years establishments. 2 hubs will open for children over the age of 8. These will be at Port Glasgow Town Hall and Clydeview Academy. The hubs will be staffed by Attainment Challenge Staff, Active Schools and CLD workers. Priority will be given to those in category 1 and category 2 where no other childcare arrangements are available. The most vulnerable children will also be allocated places at the hubs and there will be some provision through Play4all for pupils with Additional Support Needs.
- 5.11 **School Meals Provision over the summer holidays:** The last meeting of the Sub-Committee requested that a report be brought back to this meeting setting out the implications of continuing the current level of support until the end of August. CoSLA continue to make representations to the Scottish Government for an increase in the £30million sum originally allocated to Councils but the following paragraph is based on the scenario that no further funding is provided.
- 5.12 The current projection is that the current allocation of £565,000 will be overspent by £60,000 by 30 June. The estimated cost of continuing the £25/ fortnight payments until 28 August is approximately £370,000 of which £40,000 will be funded by Early Years Grant and £66,000 from the non-provision of most play schemes and Lunch Clubs over the summer holidays. If agreed the net cost of £264,000 would require to be added to the COVID-19 costs in lieu of decisions to be taken by the Policy & Resources Committee regarding how the net COVID-19 costs are funded.

## **ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION AND RESOURCES**

- 5.13 **Reopening of Household waste recycling centres:** Pottery Street recycling centre reopened on 1 June. A traffic management plan was put in place in advance with trigger points to manage queuing. During the first week almost 6000 cars were recorded accessing the site. The site is now open 7 days a week and the type of materials permitted has been increased.
- 5.14 Kirn Drive recycling centre will reopen on 15 June with opening hours from 08.00 to 18.00 and last entry to queue at 17.20. The site will be shut on Thursday. A traffic management plan has been developed with trigger points and user numbers will be monitored. There will be restrictions on material accepted and vehicle types to manage the site until the demand stabilises.
- 5.15 **Recycling Collection:** Blue bin recycling collection will recommence on the 15 June. Information has been provided to residents through the use of social media to ensure residents are aware of their collection day.
- 5.16 **Crematorium Service Recording:** Investigations were carried out in relation to how crematorium services could be recorded and broadcast to allow those not able to attend the service to view. The internet capability is not currently available at the site to be able to offer this service and indicative costs received for an external contractor were in the region of £500 per service. In addition following market testing no interest was indicated.

The solution considered most appropriate is permitting mourners attending a service to record and broadcast the proceedings themselves. This has been well received and is considered to be the best solution at this time.

The ability to broadcast services is included within the scope for the crematorium upgrade project.

- 5.17 **Greenock Ocean Terminal:** Members will be aware that prior to 'lock down' work had commenced on the construction of the Terminal building at Ocean Terminal incorporating an arrivals/departure wing, a gallery wing dedicated to the works of George Wyllie and a first floor restaurant. This project is part of the City Deal approved expenditure for Ocean Terminal.
- 5.18 At the time of 'lock down' the floating pontoon aspect of the project was nearing completion and work is going to re-commence imminently to complete the pontoon. With respect to the Terminal, only initial preparatory works had taken place with respect to ground surveys. In May the Council was advised that the contractor CBC had been put in Administration. The Council entered into discussions with the Administrators of CBC to see if there was an opportunity to continue the contract. Unfortunately we have been advised that the Administrators have chosen to terminate this contract (in line with contractual conditions around Administration). The Council has consequently taken over the site.
- 5.19 In order to progress this project it will be necessary to retender. It is likely that in view of COVID-19 there will be an increase in cost in comparison with the previous tender exercise. It is considered prudent to carry out a high level options appraisal prior to committing to retender. This would ensure that post COVID-19 risk is considered and managed. The results of options appraisal would be shared with the City Deal PMO and reported back to Committee. There will be a delay with respect to delivery of this project in consequence of these circumstances. The Council's partners in this project, Peel Ports and the George Wyllie Foundation will be kept fully informed on progress.
- 5.20 **Cruise Ships - Peel Ports Ltd:** Members will recall that at the last meeting of this Sub-Committee responses were awaited to the local MSP and MP in respect of letters submitted to Scottish and National Government. This position has not changed at the time of writing. We have been copied into a letter from the British Port Authority to COSLA in respect of Cruise Ships and attach a copy of this in **Appendix 2**.
- 5.21 **Save Inchgreen Dock Campaign:** A request has been received by Members from the Campaign requesting Council support by writing to the First Minister giving views on the need for industrial investment to reverse our decline.

- 5.22 Mr Buirds has copied a letter addressed to the First Minister in respect of Inchgreen Dry dock to all Members and this is **Appendix 3**. The matter is being raised here in view of the Council's previous position of support in respect of securing a pipeline of work for this unique asset. The letter seeks for the Scottish Government to support and invest in our local maritime economy.
- 5.23 Members should be aware that officers continue to engage with Peel Ports in respect of the wider Inchgreen site and the dry dock. The dry dock is being prepared for a new contract following completion and float out of the pontoon now secured at Ocean Terminal.
- 5.24 **Business Grants Scheme:** The closure of the Business Grants Scheme on 10 July has been announced by the Scottish Government. This is significantly earlier than the 31 March date announced when the scheme was launched. Officers have publicised the closure of the scheme and has made contact with a number of potential recipients to encourage applications.
- 5.25 As at 9 June 817 grants totalling £9.04million have been paid out. This however is well under the original Government estimate of £13.2 million of potential recipients within Inverclyde. The difference will be due to a combination of vacant properties, non-submission of applications and the original database on which the scheme was costed not being fully accurate. **Appendix 4** is a private and exempt appendix and provides a comprehensive list for Elected Members of all grants paid to 1 June 2020.
- 5.26 Officers have written to CoSLA raising the prospect of unallocated sums being retained to assist with economic recovery within the area. This request was accompanied by a table showing that the Business Grants scheme has delivered variable levels of support to different Council areas. The level of grants issued within Inverclyde is 27% less per head of population than the Scottish average and less than one third of the per head value of the highest Council area.
- 5.27 **Registrars:** Death Registration levels are more in line with previous years with 9 COVID-19 related deaths recorded in the last 4 weeks. A briefing for Members by Public Health Scotland is being arranged.
- 5.28 **Outdoor eating and drinking adjacent to licensed premises:** Pending progress through the Scottish Government's Route Map and any relevant guidance to be issued nationally on the relaxations of statutory provisions, officers have developed a draft policy which is being considered by the Inverclyde Licensing Board to deal with applications for outside eating and drinking adjacent to licensed premises.
- 5.29 In anticipation of the Route Map phasing and with regard to outdoor trading in the summer months, the Council has already been approached with requests for use of Council-owned land adjacent to a number of licensed premises for these purposes. Separately, some licence holders already own or have obtained land-owner consent for such uses and will be expected to seek Licensing Board permission in terms of the developing policy.
- 5.30 To expedite any applications for Council landowner consent, especially in this summer period, it is requested that the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources be granted delegated powers to grant such permission where considered appropriate in consultation with other officers, but otherwise any application that would be refused be referred to the Executive Sub-Committee for decision.

## **6.0 COVID-19 TESTING**

- 6.1 **COVID-19 Testing:** At the Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee meeting on the 19 May it was requested that an update on key issues relating to testing be submitted to each future meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee.
- 6.2 **Mobile Testing Units:** On the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Scottish Government COVID-19 Testing capacity was expanded to anyone in Scotland aged 5 or over, who is self-isolating because they are showing symptoms can be tested. Priority for testing appointments will be maintained for key workers and their household members to support them returning to work where it is safe to do so.

The mobilisation of a COVID-19 Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) was initially located at the Waterfront

Leisure Car Park Greenock but on 8 June moved location to St Andrews Church, Auchmead Road, Greenock and will remain in situ until stood down. Operating times remain Monday to Sunday 10am - 6pm.

6.3 Testing is accessed via the government website:

- Citizen Portal <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>
- Essential Workers self-referral <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers>
- Employers Portal <https://coronavirus-invite-testing.service.gov.uk/DaraTestDemand/Login>

6.4 **COVID-19 Care Home Resilience Huddle Testing for Residents & Staff:** As part of Scottish Government guidance on Clinical Oversight all care homes have been asked to do a safety huddle for care homes and this reports into HSCP every day. A daily care home huddle, chaired by the Health & Community Care Head of Service reviews any urgent issues with Inverclyde Care Homes in relation to Infection Control, Staffing, Personal Protective Equipment and COVID-19 rates within service users/staff and coordinates testing within the care homes as per Greater Glasgow & Clyde guidelines. Care homes are inspected as per these guidelines and the outcome is shared with the Chief Nurse in GG&C as per direction by the Scottish Government. A weekly multi-disciplinary meeting chaired by Chief Officer reviews all care home status, agrees a schedule of visits and uses the information for a return to Scottish Government.

6.5 As from the 25<sup>th</sup> May all adult residential care homes will have had all residents and staff tested who have agreed to the test.

6.6 There has been a further decline in numbers of symptomatic staff requiring testing at Port Glasgow Health centre with between three and seven staff being tested daily for the last 10 days. A decision has been taken to close this facility and instead provide symptomatic staff testing from the Community Assessment Centre at Greenock HC on Monday – Friday mornings.

6.7 **Testing for Council Employees and the Wider Community:** The Council is continuing to publicise and promote testing amongst staff and the community. Previously testing referrals had to be received by 3pm daily and all referrals had to be on one spreadsheet. Referrals can now be made more than once daily and will be accepted between 8am and 6pm. This will assist in speeding up the referral process.

6.8 Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of May the Council has referred 8 employees and one household member for testing. Of the 8 results received so far all have been negative. Five of the tests have been related to staff working in the childcare hubs for Education. Two have been for staff in Regeneration and Planning, one for Environmental and Protective Services and one for HSCP. The Health and Social Care testing portal has tested 120 people in Inverclyde.

6.9 At the meeting of 2nd June Members requested “that the Chief Executive seek clarity as to how positive results from the mobile testing unit feed into the Test and Protect Protocol”. Confirmation has been sought from Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board which is leading on the initial Test & Protect programme in the area. The Health Board has confirmed that contact tracers are now receiving test results from the Lighthouse Laboratory network which analyses swabs from both the mobile testing unit based in Inverclyde and the Glasgow Airport site.

## 7.0 WORKFORCE ISSUES

7.1 **Workforce issues:** The issues in terms of workforce availability and confidence are crucial. Officers from Organisational Development, Policy & Communications are in contact with COSLA colleagues relative to workforce statistics, illness/absence rates, working from home, etc. This information is being collated at a national level and is helping to inform discussions between senior leaders in SOLACE, COSLA and the Scottish Government regarding the impact of COVID-19 on service provision, and the key staffing issues that require some form of national consideration.

7.2 **Employee attendance:** Information is being gathered on a daily basis by managers across the Council. This allows managers to assess resource implications for delivering essential services and also to maintain contact and support those unable to attend work.

- 7.3 The table below provides approximate absence levels council wide and within some of our key essential service areas, as at 9 June 2020:-

<b>Council</b>	
<b>Historic average absence rate (%) (Pre COVID-19-19 to give a baseline comparator.)</b>	4.3%
<b>Absence rate on 28 April 2020 (%)</b> (This includes all those employees reporting sick, those isolating, those absent with caring responsibilities and those non-essential employees at home unable to work from home). <b>Please note that this excludes employees working from home.</b>	<p>Council Wide                      16.9%</p> <p><u>Essential Services Breakdown (% of Service Area)</u></p> <p>Home Care                              18.5%</p> <p>Other HSCP                              11.22%</p> <p>Waste Management                  23.9%</p> <p>Facilities                                14.6%</p>

- 7.4 The table below provides a comparison of absence levels across the Council over the past few weeks which have been reported to this Committee (the breakdown of absence levels amongst essential services is not available for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April dates):

	<b>01.04.20</b>	<b>14.04.20</b>	<b>28.04.20</b>	<b>12.05.20</b>	<b>26.05.20</b>	<b>09.06.20</b>
<b>Council</b>	19.0%	19.3%	18.5%	17.5%	17.6%	16.9%
<b>Home Care</b>	N/A	N/A	27.3%	19.2%	20.2%	18.5%
<b>Other HSCP</b>	N/A	N/A	21.87%	14.2%	17.3%	11.22%
<b>Waste Mgt</b>	N/A	N/A	29.5%	24.3%	24.0%	23.9%
<b>Facilities</b>	N/A	N/A	23.0%	26.1%	22.2%	14.6%

- 7.5 From this, the Executive Sub-Committee should note that it is essential for all officers to focus all efforts and available resources on addressing the Council's response to the emergency and, for that key reason, the support of all Members is requested in circumstances where the expectations of routine enquiries or normal timescales for operational response to Councillors cannot be met. The emergency will involve delays to otherwise usual Council business and recognition of this impact is needed and officers will, of course, continue to focus service support on the vulnerable in the community.

- 7.6 **Recovery plans:** Recovery groups have been set up Council wide to plan how we resume services and support employees back into the workplace. A Checklist for Managers has been developed which will support recovery plans and will cover areas such as: communication and consultation, continuation of homeworking, returning employees to work on a phased basis, workforce planning, and health and wellbeing. The Health & Safety team continue to provide risk assessments, advice on appropriate PPE, are working in close liaison with property services to ensure buildings are ready so that employees and visitors can safely undertake the correct social distancing and hygiene behaviours, as well as developing guidance on 'social distancing in offices'. All work to date and in the future will involve full engagement with our trade union colleagues.

- 7.7 There a number of employees who are absent due to shielding or who have underlying health conditions (or are living with someone shielding or have underlying health conditions). The Council will follow national advice and guidelines from Scottish Government and Health Protection Scotland in respect of these employees and, where appropriate, will undertake risk assessments to assist employees back to work.

## **8.0 REVISIONS TO SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (SIMD) 2020**

- 8.1 On 2 June 2020, the Scottish Government published a revised Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation as a result of a problem being identified with the income domain ranks provided by the Department of Work and Pensions. The revision only affects the data within the income domain and the overall



SIMD ranks. While the impact is minimal and the remainder of the SIMD is not affected, the revised figures has resulted in some changes to the Inverclyde data:

- The number of Inverclyde's data zones in the 5% most deprived in Scotland is now 21 (18.4%) compared to 22 in SIMD version 1.
- Glasgow City Council is now the local authority with the highest share of its data zones in the 20% most deprived in Scotland (45.4%), moving Inverclyde into second position (44.7%).
- The percentage of Inverclyde's data zones that are in the 20% most **income** deprived in Scotland has increased from 46.5% to 48.2%, the highest in Scotland.

8.2 The following remain unchanged between SIMD v.1 and SIMD v.2:

- The number of Inverclyde's data zones in the 20% most deprived in Scotland remains at 51 (44.7%)
- Data zone S01010891 in Greenock town centre continues to have a ranking of 1 and remains the most deprived data zone in Scotland

The SIMDv.2 data will be used in all future SIMD analysis.

## 9.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 9.1 Finance

#### Financial Implications:

##### One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Food Insecurity	School Meals Payment	2020/21	£370,000		Cost of continuing the £25/fortnight payment to 28.8.20
Early Years	Meals	2020/21	(£40,000)		
Summer Playschemes	Grants	2020/21	(£46,000)		No provision in 2020
Summer Lunch clubs	Various	2020/21	(£20,000)		No provision in 2020

##### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

### 9.2 Legal

There are no Legal implications other than as noted within this report.

### 9.3 Human Resources

There are no Human Resources implications other than as noted within this report.

## 9.4 Equalities

### Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

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YES (see attached appendix)

X
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NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

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YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.

X
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NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

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YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

X
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NO

## 9.5 Repopulation

All of the steps undertaken by Officers seek to support the long-term interests of the Inverclyde economy and to provide a secure and safe environment for its workforce.

## 10.0 CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The Corporate Management Team endorses this report.

## 11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None

**Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee**  
**Weekly Update on Operational Decision Log**  
**From Thursday 28 May 2020 to Wednesday 3 June 2020**

**Head of Legal & Property Services**  
**GM/KB**  
**4 June 2020**

Service Impact	Reason	Reported to CMT	Supporting Report Yes – N/A	Implemented	Officer
<b>Environment, Regeneration &amp; Resources Directorate</b>					

**Legal & Property Services**

60. Re- commence all statutory and other consultations for all service areas, including Traffic Regulation Orders, Common Good, Public Open Space, Schools etc.	To progress all necessary actions involving public consultation in the resumption of Council services which reflect the phased implementation of the Route Map provided actions are reviewed and consultation practices are suitably modified to ensure public engagement through the website, site display, Customer Service Centre, Libraries (when appropriate) and press notice when required	Yes	Yes	28.05.20	GM
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**Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee**

**Weekly Update on Operational Decision Log**

**From Thursday 4 June 2020 to Wednesday 10 June 2020**

**Head of Legal & Property Services**

**GM/KB**

**11 June 2020**

Service Impact	Reason	Reported to CMT	Supporting Report Yes – N/A	Implemented	Officer
<b>ALL DIRECTORATES</b>					
<u><b>NIL REPORT</b></u>					

## **APPENDIX 2**



1 June 2020

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities  
Sally Loudon, Chief Executive  
Verity House  
19 Haymarket Yards  
Edinburgh  
EH12 5BH  
Via [info@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:info@cosla.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Loudon,

### **Ship layups at Scottish ports and local stakeholder concerns**

I am writing on behalf of the Scottish Ports Group and the British Ports Association (BPA). The Scottish Ports Group is part of the BPA but has its own defined network, activities and publications. The Group covers all the main cargo and commercial ports in Scotland as well as a wide range of smaller harbour facilities. We would like to pay testament to the work of your sector in keeping many important services open during the unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic. Scottish ports have also remained open during these challenging times.

The ports sector in Scotland is financially and strategically independent of central government. Investment decisions are based on market need and changes in demand. Scottish ports produce £9.9bn in turnover and £9.6bn indirectly in the supply chain and induced wider spending. They also provide economic activity and employment, often in areas of deprivation. Scotland's ports keep supermarket shelves stocked, facilitate energy production and ensure that the construction industry has materials for development, to name just a few of their functions.

A number of our members have been in touch to say that some Scottish local authorities and wider port stakeholders have raised concerns about some ports facilitating ship layups, and in particular cruise ship layups. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, ship layups were common practice throughout many UK ports, whether that be offshore supply vessels, tankers, gas carriers, cargo vessels, bulk carriers or multi-purpose vessels.

This is a legitimate and vital activity. Often the vessels come into the port over the winter period, during times of economic uncertainty or for maintenance or engineering works which are usually completed by local businesses. Layups provide valuable income for ports, particularly now as port traffic and business have declined dramatically for most ports.

Understandably the global pause of cruise operations means the vast majority of cruise ships are laid at ports up for a prolonged period. Scottish ports who have ships laid up in

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their waters are in close contact with their local port health authorities and would have developed strict and appropriate plans and protocols to ensure the welfare of the crew, whether that be facilitating food deliveries, medical concerns or crew changes. When the time is right for cruise ships to recommence their operations, Scottish ports and their wider coastal communities will be an important part of their recovery.

I wanted to assure you and your members that the health and safety of passengers and the communities the ships call on will always remain the highest priority and we look forward to working with government and the cruise sector about how best to take this forward. Currently, many of the laid-up ships have crew members on board and as a responsible industry and welcoming country, we are keen that their needs are accommodated. They too are concerned about coronavirus and are taking many measures to protect themselves and others from the virus.

Finally, I would add that it is important to highlight that prosperity derived from port activity is often shared amongst many in local communities, through job creation and boosting the economy of coastal regions. For example, by ports acting as the cornerstone for the marine tourism and cruise sectors in Scotland, many associated sectors benefit. Like many sectors the ports and shipping industries have been hit hard by the pandemic. Maritime activities have reduced substantially and port incomes have reduced substantially. Ports must be able to undertake their usual activities and generate any legitimate revenue where they can. I am sure your members will understand that maritime around Scotland are important and will want to see the sector survive without impacts on local jobs.

I would be grateful if you would kindly amplify this message to your members. Should you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to get in touch and of course, I would be delighted to speak with you or colleagues should this be of interest.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Richard Ballantyne.

Richard Ballantyne  
Chief Executive, British Ports Association

Copy to: Nick Gosling, Head of Maritime Policy, Transport Scotland





**12 Lomond Ave  
Port Glasgow  
PA14 5SA  
01/06/2020**

**Nicola Sturgeon First Minister**

Dear First Minister,

Please accept our thanks for working so hard on behalf of the people of Scotland.

Despite the need for much of your time to be focused on the Covid-19 pandemic, we appreciate that you must also be looking beyond the pandemic towards the economic recovery of our country.

We are not a protest group. Our goal has always been to ensure that Inverclyde has the facilities it needs to permit regeneration and to enable our community to recover its former position in the vanguard of Scottish industry and productivity.

As you will know, the plight of Inverclyde is clear from its poor health record, high unemployment, and the many acres of prime industrial land that lie fallow whilst property developers strangle any potential jobs initiative by refusing to release land to companies wishing to create meaningful long-term jobs. The lack of employment and opportunity has created the current high level of deprivation, which enabled Covid-19 to take a terrible toll on our community.

We are aware of your commitment to find solutions to eradicate the deprivation and poverty that hangs over Inverclyde. A significant part of eradicating that deprivation and poverty will be by creating well-paid employment for people to pull themselves up from their knees so they can once again take pride in their community.

We need a 2-pronged strategy that has to come initially from Holyrood. Firstly we need to preserve our industrial facilities and land so they can be used to create new business opportunities, and secondly we need meaningful investment to encourage businesses to create

skilled jobs here on the banks of the once industrious River Clyde. We believe your Government can see the long-term benefit of a skilled workforce working to build a better life for their families and to provide a future for our young people. Putting it plainly, we need help to grow and not handouts to merely survive on the breadline.

To this end we have been campaigning and lobbying for the last three years to bring Inchgreen Dry Dock and the prime industrial land around it back into productive maritime industrial use. In parallel with that campaign, we have been working with other groups to encourage the growth of exciting Maritime Heritage Projects that would create a positive image of Inverclyde to outside businesses seeking to relocate and, importantly, to rebuild pride in our community.

Gradually we have brought Inverclyde Council, MSPs, MPs, the Chamber of Commerce, local marine companies and various focus groups to support the principles of our campaign. With the whole Community now united behind our campaign, we would ask the Scottish Government to come to Inverclyde's assistance by creating the seeds of a plan that can be used to grow a prosperous future. Part of the City Deal funds already committed could provide the initial seedcorn.

With Scottish Government support and targeted investment, we could provide land, facilities and provide an environment that would attract private sector investment to create jobs and reduce the burden on public funds of a workforce lying idle. Such Government-sponsored support for deprived areas is not a new concept and perhaps the most successful example was the Welsh Development Agency (WDA). As you will know, the WDA was responsible for encouraging business development and investment in Wales, clearing derelict land and encouraging growth of local businesses. It was so successful at regenerating deprived areas in Wales that it was eventually able to step aside as the momentum built in the business community grew and sustained the high-quality jobs that had been created.

For further background please find attached the correspondence sent to your Director of Economic Development, our latest Facebook Posts and the link to our Facebook page.

The theme of the SNP Conference in October 2019 was 'Hope'. Inverclyde needs a helping hand to get it off its knees and to give our community Hope. Please consider seriously our request for your Government to create the environment that would set Inverclyde on the road to working its way out of deprivation and despair.

Stay safe and well.

Yours Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Robert Buirds.

Robert Buirds  
Secretary Campaign to Save Inchgreen Dry Dock

Mobile 

<https://m.facebook.com/Campaigntosaveinchgreendrydock>