
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	1 September 2020
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/44/20/AW
Contact Officer:	Alana Ward, Service Manager	Contact No:	01475 712347
Subject:	Examining Inverclyde's historical connections to the slave trade		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out plans to examine Inverclyde's historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today's society.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee recently agreed to a request by Councillor McCabe that in response to the concerns raised by the Black Lives Matter campaign relative to Scotland's links to the slave trade, a report be brought back on Inverclyde's historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today's society.
- 2.2 Officers across relevant departments of Inverclyde Council, as well as members of the community and black and minority ethnic (BAME) members of the community, will be invited to join a working group, the remit and Terms of Reference to be determined by the Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources, to examine these links.
- 2.3 A final report, including recommendations, will be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the formation of a working group to examine Inverclyde's historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today's society, including recommendations as to how community reparations can be made.
- 3.2 It is recommended that it be remitted to the Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources to determine the remit, participation, and Terms of Reference for the working group, which should include representation from various Council departments, and also community representation including black and minority ethnic (BAME) members of the community.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the Committee notes that a final report, including recommendations, will be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At its meeting of 16 June 2020, the Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee agreed to a request by Councillor McCabe that in response to the concerns raised by the Black Lives Matter campaign relative to Scotland's links to the slave trade, a report be brought back on Inverclyde's historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today's society, including recommendations as to how community reparations can be made.
- 4.2 Work has already taken place examining the area's historic links to slavery. The Watt Institution holds much information about Inverclyde's links to the slave trade and held an exhibition on the subject entitled "Sugar, Ships and Slaves" in 2007. Watt Institution staff also worked alongside Arts Education staff and various other partners in 2009 on a "Routes to Roots" project which saw 93 P7 Newark Primary pupils and their teachers devise and lead a slavery tour in Inverclyde. Pupils visited the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool to round off the project.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Officers have recently applied for funding for the Watt Institution to undertake a re-interpretation of museum collections, including 'decolonising' collections which is a process of museums and heritage institutions expanding the perspectives they portray beyond those of the dominant cultural group. This project would further build on the work described in 4.2. A decision on this funding bid is due to be made on or before 28 August.
- 5.2 Other work which could be undertaken could include examining slavery connections of statues, historic buildings, and street names in the Inverclyde area. It is proposed to form a working group to examine Inverclyde's historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today's society, including recommendations as to how community reparations can be made.
- 5.3 It is proposed that it be remitted to the Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources to determine the remit, participation, and Terms of Reference for the working group, which should include representation from various Council departments, and also community representation including black and minority ethnic (BAME) members of the community. A final report, including recommendations, will be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Nominal working group costs will be met within existing resources. If funding

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

6.2 **Legal**

There are no known legal implications contained within this report.

6.3 **Human Resources**

There are no known human resources implications contained within this report.

6.4 **Equalities**

Equalities

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

	YES
X	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?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
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NO

6.5 **Repopulation**

There are no known repopulation implications contained within this report.

7.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 None.

8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.