
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	24 September 2020
Report By:	Head of Legal & Property Services	Report No:	GM/SL/LP/105/20
Contact Officer:	Gerard Malone	Contact No:	01475 712710
Subject:	Short-Life Working Group to Establish Museum of Human Rights in Inverclyde		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report requests the Council: (a) to support proposals to establish a Museum of Human Rights in Inverclyde; and (b) to nominate an Elected Member to represent the Council on an intended short-life working group.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 An invitation has been received by the Leader of the Council from Mr Stuart McMillan MSP to participate in a short-life working group to develop an initial proposal to present to the Scottish Government, Museums Galleries Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland.
- 2.2 The proposal is to form a cross-party group with the aim of establishing a national museum in Inverclyde which recognises and highlights Scotland's former role in the slave trade and colonialism.
- 2.3 The Council is asked to consider its support of the proposal and, if agreed, to nominate a member to the short-life working group.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Council considers the request received from Mr Stuart McMillan MSP, decides whether to support the proposal and, if agreed, nominates its representative.

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A request has been made that the Leader of the Council participates in the short-life working group and Councillor McCabe has received Mr McMillan's invitation and proposal which are set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 4.2 On 16 June 2020, the Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee, following a request by the Leader of the Council, agreed to a report being submitted on Inverclyde's historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today's society. The scope of report was to include recommendations as to how community reparations can be made and also reflect the existence and impact of modern-day slavery.
- 4.3 Following this decision, a report was submitted to the Education & Communities Committee on 1 September 2020 setting 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.
- 4.4 Approval was given by the Education & Communities Committee to the formation of a working group to look at these issues and it was remitted to the Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources to determine the remit, participation and terms of reference of the working group, with the final report, including recommendations, being submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.
- 4.5 The Council is asked to consider its support of the proposals set out in Appendix 1 and, if so, to nominate a Member as its representative on the intended short-life working group.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

One Off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

Legal

- 5.2 There are no legal implications relating to this proposal.

Human Resources

- 5.3 There are no HR implications relating to this proposal.

Equalities

5.4 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.
X	NO

Repopulation

5.5 There are no direct repopulation issues within this report.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 None.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

Dear Stephen,

Re.: Working Group: Museum for Human Rights

I hope you are well.

I write seeking your support for a project I am progressing which already has growing public support. You will be aware that on 10th June the Scottish Parliament passed a resolution agreeing to have a museum to remember the slave trade and past historical events.

I have called for such a museum to be based in Greenock using the Sugar Warehouses at the James Watt Dock as the location.

Inverclyde has a history, sadly, in the slave trade and the triangular trade and as such, I believe my constituency is the perfect location for such a facility. Furthermore, Inverclyde's links involving the exporting of people, the Highland Clearances, it's role in the 1820 insurrection amongst others provide three additional examples highlighting how Inverclyde's history is intertwined with that of Scotland's role in past events.

I believe such a facility could be designed and delivered in such a way that it provides a national facility of standing which can tell the story of the past to the present to help the future. It can be an educational facility of world standing which can have a positive effect socially and economically.

I am bringing together a short-life working party to bring together what we agree can be the foundation for making this suggestion a reality for Inverclyde. Operating as Team Inverclyde can ensure we put forward the strongest possible case to the Scottish Government.

I would be delighted if you will agree to become a member of the cross-party short life working party please? I already have representation from Scottish Enterprise,

West College Scotland, Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce and Creative Inverclyde and people from the creative sector on-board.

I am happy to discuss further if you have any questions.

Short-Life Working group to Establish Museum of Human Rights in Inverclyde

The Short-Life Working Group to Establish a Museum of Human Rights in Inverclyde (The Group) to a seek to develop an initial proposal to present to the Scottish Government and its agencies: Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for consideration, and in accordance with, Motion S5M-22004 (as amended) on 10 June 2020 in the Scottish Parliament which agreed that the Scottish Government would work to create a national museum to highlight Scotland's role in the slave trade and colonialism.

The Group note the Scottish Government Programme for Government published on 2nd September 2020 announced that the Scottish Government ***'will sponsor an independent expert group to make recommendations on how Scotland's existing and future museum collections (we) can better recognise and represent a more accurate portrayal of Scotland's colonial and slavery history and what further steps should be taken to ensure people in Scotland are aware of the role Scotland played and how that manifests itself in our society today'***.

The Group also note that MGS are undertaking the review for the Scottish Government whilst HES had previously indicated their own review into this part of Scottish history with regards the estate they manage.

The Group understands that such a facility incorporating a range of humanitarian aspects of history including the importance of the maritime history can best highlight Scotland's role in the slave trade and colonialism.

Finally, the Group considers there will be a wider educational, social and economic development impact for Inverclyde, which can assist with some of the long term challenges that have existed.

Links

1. Scottish Parliament Official Report, 10th June
- <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12685&i=114774>

2. Programme for Government - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/protecting-scotland-renewing-scotland-governments-programme-scotland-2020-2021/> (page 110)
3. Museums Galleries Scotland
- <https://www.museumsgalleriescotland.org.uk/stories/museums-galleries-scotland-to-coordinate-consultation-on-scotland-s-colonial-and-slavery-history-in-museum-collections/>
4. Culture, Tourism, Europe and external Affairs Committee, Scottish Parliament Official Report, 3rd September.
<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12790>

Membership

Stuart McMillan MSP – Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency

Ronnie Cowan MP – Inverclyde Constituency

West College Scotland – Principal Liz Connolly

Scottish Enterprise – Stephen Frew

Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce – Andrew Bowman

Creative Inverclyde – Louise Hunter

Clyde Atlantic Trust – Elliott McKelvie

Matthew Hickman – Brownbearband

Supported by Jean Johansson (TV Personality)