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**Report To:** Inverclyde Integration Joint Board      **Date:** 25 January 2021

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Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership      **Report No:** IJB/08/2021/LL

**Contact Officer:**      **Contact No:** 01475 712722

**Subject:** **INVERCLYDE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD DECISION-MAKING ARRANGEMENTS**

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to review the current governance arrangements for the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board (IJB) during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 In light of the demands caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and following the First Minister's statement to the Scottish Parliament on 4 January 2021 it is appropriate for the IJB to review its meeting format and decision-making arrangements to enable the essential and critical business of the IJB to continue in the current circumstances
- 2.2 This report sets out these arrangements, which will be subject to ongoing review in line with Scottish Government advice.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board:-
- a. notes the contents of this report;
  - b. agrees that the current cycle of IJB and IJB Audit Meetings will continue on the basis of consideration of business critical items only;
  - c. agrees the suspension of meetings of the Strategic Planning Group.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The IJB on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 reviewed the governance arrangements for future meetings. It was agreed that the Chief Officer would utilise her delegated powers as set out in the Scheme of Delegation to Officers, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to deal with matters of an urgent nature.
- 4.2 On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 interim arrangements were in place, including reduced membership and agreement that all future meetings would use tele conference/virtual facilities in line with IJB Standing Orders which allow for remote participation. It was also agreed that the number of agenda items would be significantly reduced to focus on COVID-19 and items requiring a decision by the IJB.
- 4.3 Meetings continue to be closed to the public in accordance with section 50(A) 3A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.
- 4.4 On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 normal IJB meeting arrangements were reintroduced using Web-Ex to facilitate virtual meetings. The full membership was able to participate.
- 4.5 On 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the First Minister announced that mainland Scotland was entering a second period of lockdown. As such, it is appropriate that the IJB considers its governance procedures for the duration of the current situation.
- 4.6 It is therefore proposed that the normal schedule of IJB and IJB Audit meetings remains in place with full membership. However the agenda will be significantly reduced to focus on COVID-19 (including vaccination programmes) and business critical items requiring a decision by the IJB.
- 4.7 It is also proposed to suspend meetings of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) to allow officers to focus on COVID-19 and the associated vaccination programme.
- 4.8 The Chief Officer will continue to have weekly briefings with the IJB Chair and Vice-Chair and these arrangements will be reviewed monthly by the Chief Officer, Chair and Vice-Chair as matters continue to develop.
- 4.9 **Delegation of Authority to Chief Officer**  
Operationally, Officers of the HSCP have delegated powers through the Council and the Health Board and decisions are being taken by the Chief Officer, in consultation with both the Chief Executives of the Council and Health Board, in response to the current crisis on a daily basis.
- 4.10 In relation to urgent strategic matters which usually require a decision of the IJB, there are provisions within IJB's Scheme of Delegation that allow the Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to take a decision outwith the IJB, as long as it is urgent and cannot wait for the next IJB meeting and that it is reported to the next available IJB meeting. These powers will only be used by the Chief Officer in an emergency, where it is not possible or practicable for the matter to be dealt with through an IJB meeting. A record of all actions taken under the delegated powers will be kept and reported to the next available meeting of the IJB.

## **5.0 PROPOSAL**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the IJB notes the temporary changes to decision-making arrangements put in place which allow officers to focus time and resources on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, while facilitating essential decision-making.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

### FINANCE

#### 5.1

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs / (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

### LEGAL

5.2 There are no specific legal implications arising from the content of this report.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

5.3 There are no specific human resources implications arising from this report.

### EQUALITIES

5.4 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 change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

5.4.2 How does this report address our Equality Outcomes?

Equalities Outcome	Implications
People, including individuals from the above protected characteristic groups, can access HSCP services.	None
Discrimination faced by people covered by the protected characteristics across HSCP services is reduced if not eliminated.	None
People with protected characteristics feel safe within their communities.	None
People with protected characteristics feel included in the planning and developing of services.	None
HSCP staff understand the needs of people with different protected characteristic and promote diversity in the work that they do.	None
Opportunities to support Learning Disability service users experiencing gender based violence are	None

maximised.	
Positive attitudes towards the resettled refugee community in Inverclyde are promoted.	None

## CLINICAL OR CARE GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

5.5 There are no clinical or care governance implications arising from this report.

## 5.6 NATIONAL WELLBEING OUTCOMES

How does this report support delivery of the National Wellbeing Outcomes?

National Wellbeing Outcome	Implications
People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.	None
People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions or who are frail are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community	None
People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected.	None
Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.	None
Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.	None
People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including reducing any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing.	None
People using health and social care services are safe from harm.	None
People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide.	None
Resources are used effectively in the provision of health and social care services.	None

## 6.0 DIRECTIONS

6.1

<b>Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both</b>	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	x
	2. Inverclyde Council	
	3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (GG&C)	
	4. Inverclyde Council and NHS GG&C	

## 7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The report has been prepared by the Chief Officer of Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) after due consideration with relevant senior officers in the HSCP.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.