
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	11 May 2021
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities, HR and OD	Report No:	EDUCOM/22/21/RB
Contact Officer:	Tony McEwan, Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Communities Update Report		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an update on the Communities aspects of the service.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 This is the first update report provided to the Education and Communities Committee for services which fall under the remit of the Communities part of the committee.

2.2 Updates are provided on:

- Regeneration Capital Fund (RCGF);
- Fair Trade Status; and
- The financial position of Inverclyde Leisure

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee:

- notes the content of the report; and
- agrees to delegate responsibility to the Director of Education, Communities and OD to submit on behalf of the relevant organisations in para 4.1 below, applications to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund for 2022/23.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education
Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF)

The Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF), delivered in partnership with COSLA and local government, supports locally developed place based regeneration projects that involve local communities, helping to support and create jobs and build sustainable communities. Applications to the fund are made on an annual basis and, where justified, can potentially cover more than one financial year (subject to available budget). Applications for stage 1 applications for 2022/23 funding have been opened with a closing date of June 2021. Two applications are being considered within the authority area; the 32nd Greenock and District Scout group and Parklea Branching Out. Both applications were unsuccessful in funding for the round in 2021-22 and the service will support both applications 2022/23 and provide further updates to the Education and Communities Committee. Committee is asked to note this and to give the Director of Education, Communities and OD delegated responsibility to submit applications on behalf of the organisations.

4.2 Inverclyde Fairtrade Zone Application / Successful Renewal

Inverclyde Council has been a recognised Fairtrade zone since 2013 and the latest extension of this status has been secured by the Council until 2023.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

In Inverclyde there has been a significant increase in the volume and variety of Fairtrade activity since our initial zone status application back in 2013. In the latest renewal application Inverclyde was complimented on its sustained Fairtrade work undertaken by our schools, the strength of its community led partnership and for the wider community work going on with the most recent example in Dec 2020 where a very successful “pop up shop” opened in the Watt Institution.

Inverclyde Council Cultural Services works alongside the Community Champion who chairs the local steering group and drives much of the activity on the ground. Moving forward in the next renewal period (Feb 2023) it is the intention to further develop the Council’s community links, develop a Fairtrade Directory on the Discover Inverclyde website, increase our social media presence and build on the success of pop up shops in a variety of new venues. The Council will also explore ways in which to raise public awareness of our zone status and promote Inverclyde as a Fairtrade Zone with the erection of road Signs or have a Billboard presence – Welcome to Inverclyde A Fairtrade Zone.

The renewal of the status will support the work being done by the Council examining historical links to the transatlantic slave trade.

4.3 Inverclyde Leisure

Due to the impact of Covid 19 restrictions, Inverclyde Leisure (IL) has suffered significant impacts upon its service provision in 2020/21 and generate sufficient income in order to produce a break even position.

Continued Covid-19 restrictions have led to a number of facilities having to close for extended and unknown periods of time. Inverclyde Council has already deficit funded IL in 20/21 by £951k, in addition to the approved management fee. Looking at the 20/23 budget IL had identified in late 2020 a funding gap of approximately £2.28m. The second lockdown from the end of December 2020 until April 2021, has meant that IL has updated its projections to reflect a further deficit of £771K for 21/23. This is mainly due to the delay in the recovery process for the fitness industry and IL having to re-build its customer direct debit base. The Inverclyde Leisure Board of Directors has expressed its thanks for the Council’s continued support through this challenging time.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance

There are no financial implications connected to this report.

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					

5.2 Legal

There are no known Legal implications contained within this report.

5.3 Human Resources

There are no known Human Resources implications contained within this report and no posts will be created as a result of the project.

5.4 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?

X

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

NO

5.5 Repopulation

N/A

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 None

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None