
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	28 October 2021
Report By:	Interim Service Director, Environment & Economic Recovery	Report No:	ENV030/21/SJ/JH
Contact Officer:	Stuart Jamieson	Contact No:	01475 712402
Subject:	Inverclyde Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021-2025		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update in respect of the Inverclyde Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021-2025 – Action Plan.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 At its meeting on 23rd June 2021 the Committee approved the Inverclyde Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021-2025 and Action Plan.
- 2.2 Officers undertook to provide regular updates in respect of the action and this report is the first of many which will provide Members with an update on the actions identified within the Plan.
- 2.3 Whilst there has been limited activity since the approval Appendix 1 highlights the activity undertaken.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee are asked to note the activity highlighted in Appendix 1.

Stuart Jamieson
Interim Service Director, Environment & Economic Recovery

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Economic regeneration in Inverclyde has primarily been carried out by Inverclyde Council's regeneration team, with physical activity carried out by Riverside Inverclyde under the auspices of a number of single operating plans since 2014.

4.2 The concepts of the previous plans largely remained current:

- To grow and diversify the business base
- To increase Inverclyde's capacity to accommodate private sector jobs
- To accelerate the regeneration of strategic employment sites and town centres and
- To progress the renewal and economic renewal of the most disadvantaged areas of Inverclyde

However a number of new themes have been developed in the intervening period including community benefits, community wealth building, and a reduction in carbon / net zero whilst at the same time addressing the impact of Brexit, and COVID-19.

4.3 At its meeting in June of this year the Committee approved Inverclyde Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021-2025. The Strategy provides members with detail in respect of the aspirations for Inverclyde along with a resourced action plan.

4.4 The strategy and action plan were prepared in consultation with the business community.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 Delivery and reporting of the strategy and action plan will see regular reporting to the Committee

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

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

None.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

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. The activities complement existing established programmes. 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

6.5 Repopulation

The report supports the ethos of our repopulation agenda.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Consultations have taken place with the business community and third sector representatives.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

Appendix 1 - ACTION PLAN 2021/22 – 2022/23 - draft

Description	Value £	Budget source	Update
Employability Service contract – we will provide our out of work client base with support through tendered employability services to reduce the barriers to participation in the labour market.	996,359	Core	Contract with Inverclyde Community Development Trust. They have supported 202 clients between March-Aug 2021
Work Experience – we will offer clients, working with local employers the opportunity to gain valuable work experience.	489,996	Core	Contract with Inverclyde Community Development Trust. They have supported 34 clients between March – August 2021
Diverse workforce – we will work with clients with physical and mental barriers to employment to gain work.	54,902	Core	Contract with Enable to work with local employers to promote diversity and inclusive work practices. They have supported 11 clients between March – August 2021
Health Barriers – working with specialist providers we will engage clients with complex mental health issues which prevent them participating in the volunteering and job market.	124,228	Core	Contract with Stepwell to support unemployed/inactive residents with health barriers. They have

			supported 34 clients between March – August 2021.
Advice and employment rights – we will support clients in the provision of specialist employment support.	70,848	Core	Contract with Inverclyde Advice and Employment Rights who support unemployed/inactive. 176 clients have been supported between March – August 2021.
John Wood Street – we support the provision of an employability hub in Port Glasgow town centre.	120,000	Core	Support is continuing
Wage subsidies and training support – we will support clients and employers with taking on local unemployed people as well as providing training both in work and out of work to improve job prospects/ job retention.	500,000	Core	130 jobs are currently supported with another 25 being progressed and continued ongoing enquiries.
Employer recruitment incentive – a programme to support local businesses to in employing young people with barriers to participation.	100,000	EMR	
Modern apprenticeship programme – supplementing our core MA programme offering a wide range of opportunities for young people in the public sector	250,000	EMR	New intake of 25 for 2021/22. 23 have started or in later stages of recruitment. 2 are advertised for Life Sciences. Continue to support 15 internal posts from 2020/21 intake to

			gain and supporting 5 who are post-qualification to secure internal appointments.
Graduate programme – we will support young people in Inverclyde achieve better potential by offering up to one years worth of work experience in their chosen degree discipline.	210,000	EMR	New intake of 14, 18month posts. All will be in post by March 2022. Also supporting a further 5 who are in post.
Jobs refresh programme – the Councils flagship employability programme in response to the COVID-19 providing 210 job outcomes to predominately young people.	6,000,000	EMR	The Inverclyde works campaign to raise the profile of job vacancies, training and other employability initiatives to encourage more people into employment and training is ongoing. Job vacancies continue to be advertised locally and shared with local employability partners under the Inverclyde Works branding and

			recruitment to the Council's MA, Graduate and Kickstart programmes is also ongoing.
Schools programme - we will support young people who are not following an academic route into gaining vocational skills with a view to early apprenticeships.	95,000	EMR	This programme has been stopped following DYW funding
Business Gateway – under contract with Renfrewshire Council we will continue to develop the entrepreneurial development of local people in supporting them starting a business.	132,880	Core	The Business Gateway contract has been implemented in Sept 2021 until Sept 2022. 120 businesses have been supported by Business Gateway in the first two quarters of 2021/22
Business Development – we will support local business in the development of opportunities available to them.	69,400	Core	The team continue to offer grants to businesses and are launching another through DSL.
Business Development Officers - in response to the COVID-19 pandemic two business development officers allocation to supplement the existing team.	Staff	EMR	Recruitment ongoing
SIMD Business Development Officer – an anti-poverty intervention to promote entrepreneurial spirit in our most disadvantaged communities.	Staff + budget	EMR	Recruitment ongoing

Business Development Officer Town Centre – a special initiative to help Town Centre businesses in their development.	Staff	EMR	Recruitment ongoing
MCMC - we will work with young people in their transition from school to maximise their potential in the jobs market.	Staff + income	Core	The Annual Participation Measure published in August showed that 93.3% are participating in education, employment or training.
RIPH – under our Service Level agreement we will manage the RIPH portfolio to maximise investment, occupancy and property solutions for businesses in Inverclyde.	Staff +income	External	Service Level agreement continued for another year
RI – we will administer any surplus fund activity with the approval of the Board.	TBC	External	Surplus fund posts recruited and two loan enquiries
City Deal – we will complete the Ocean Terminal works and achieve approval on the Inchgreen and Inverkip works and have the works substantially complete..	32,250,000	External	Positive momentum on all three projects
Property Development – we will provide support to local businesses to find property solutions as well as assisting with grant support, whilst also maximising occupancy levels in the Councils portfolio and work with private sector landlords to make Inverclyde and attractive solution.	45,700	Core	10 businesses have been supported through Property Grants with a further 6 grant offers committed in 2021/22. The fund was oversubscribed and is now fully committed.

Area renewal - we will work with private and public sector partners in addressing the complex barriers found in area renewal.	Staff	Core	Positive momentum on Inchgreen Drydock
Community benefits – we will continue to support colleagues in the property market to maximise community benefits in the area for young people.	Staff	Core	GOT delivering opportunities
Community Wealth Building – we will maximise the opportunities from the five pillars of community wealth building whilst working with colleagues at a regional and national level including the provision of two workshops per annum including anchor organisations.	Staff	Core	Holding policy approved. Examples of suitable projects in CWF bids
COVID -19 Partnership recovery plan – we will deliver the people, health and business support interventions identified in the Economic section of the plan	1,700,000	EMR	Interventions deployed