

---

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>21 April 2022</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>IC/02/22/SJ</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Stuart Jamieson</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712385</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Task Force</b>		

---

## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight the recent engagement with the Scottish Government and confirm the creation of a new Inverclyde Task Force focussed on addressing a range of underlying long term issues affecting the community of Inverclyde and identifying funding solutions.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In November 2021, the Council Leader and Chief Executive met with the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy to examine the underlying long term issues affecting Inverclyde and identify opportunities to address those.
- 2.2 Terms of reference have been created (appendix 1) to set out the scope of a new Inverclyde Task Force.
- 2.3 The terms of reference also highlight that in addition to a range of Council official and political representatives, that invitations to the new Inverclyde Task Force will be issued to officials of the Scottish Government; Scotland Office; political leaders including regional and constituency MSPs; MP for Inverclyde; representatives from a range of agencies including Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce; Federation of Small Business; Skills Development Scotland; Department of Work and Pensions; West College Scotland and Riverside Inverclyde Property Holdings.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council:
- (1) Agree the proposed terms of reference attached at appendix 1, and that a new Inverclyde Task Force is established reporting to the full Council and monitored through the Inverclyde Alliance local outcome improvement plan (LOIP); and
  - (2) Note that a report updating on the progress of the Inverclyde Task Force will be presented to the December meeting of the Council, and six-monthly thereafter.

**LOUISE LONG**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In November 2021, the Council Leader and Chief Executive met with the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy to examine underlying long term issues affecting Inverclyde and identify opportunities to address those.
- 4.2 A briefing was presented to the Cabinet Secretary and, following discussion, it was agreed that a new task force be created to examine opportunities and bring partners together to seek solutions.
- 4.3 The briefing paper highlighted a range of key facts about Inverclyde including population rates and deprivation levels.
- 4.4 The briefing also noted the impact of Covid-19 on Inverclyde and funding issues affecting local government in Scotland.
- 4.5 The briefing document also highlighted requests for assistance from the Scottish Government including support for the local economy; the local government settlement; investment in public infrastructure; investment in housing and the Council's commissioning of a report from the Fraser of Allander Institute and the previous ask of the Scottish Government to create a case for special funding Inverclyde.
- 4.6 Following the meeting, Council and Scottish Government officials have been engaged in the creation of a terms of reference (included at appendix 1).
- 4.7 It is now proposed that a new Inverclyde Task Force is created bringing together the range of organisations included in the terms of reference reporting to the full Council and monitored through the Inverclyde Alliance local outcome improvement plan (LOIP).

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 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					

5.2 **Legal**

N/A

5.3 **Human Resources**

N/A

5.4 **Equalities**

Equalities

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

--

YES (see attached appendix)

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

5.5 **Repopulation**

Additional investment supporting Inverclyde and addressing long term health inequalities would be a crucial element of stabilising population decline in Inverclyde and helping to take steps towards repopulation and the future sustainability of communities.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 N/A

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 N/A

## APPENDIX 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference for Inverclyde Socio-economic Task Force	
<b>Aim</b>	Our aim is to stimulate the Inverclyde economy creating opportunities for business and residents to ensure Inverclyde is a place of choice for people to live, work and thrive.
<b>Key Objectives</b>	<p>To set out a shared vision and plan by developing a strong partnership that uses intelligence, knowledge, data sharing, and innovation to initially focus on the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure Inverclyde is prioritised for national and economic support including direct pre-approved access to grant funding, business and Government agency relocation/headquarters and new inward investment opportunities;</li> <li>• To create employment opportunities to improve on Inverclyde's pre pandemic employment rates;</li> <li>• To create new opportunities for business to grow;</li> <li>• To create new jobs and a pipeline of employability support;</li> <li>• To target investment to help shape the renewed economy, focused on growth sectors that will allow residents and businesses to adapt and thrive;</li> <li>• To identify funding opportunities to support infrastructure projects that support community benefit and community wealth building;</li> <li>• To engage local communities and business to help identify barriers and provide opportunities to create employment;</li> <li>• To monitor and review progress of the plan with milestones and a focus on outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Critical Success Factors</b>	<p>Success of a task force will see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear vision and plan based on tangible socio economic evidence;</li> <li>• Increased job creation by using expertise and funding available through Scottish and UK Government to build a special case for Inverclyde;</li> <li>• Improvements on Inverclyde's pre pandemic employment rates;</li> <li>• Improved business start up;</li> <li>• Supported regeneration of the area through infrastructure projects which promote Inverclyde as a place to live and work;</li> <li>• Increased support to small business to ensure they are able to adapt and thrive sustainably in '<i>new normal</i>' post pandemic;</li> <li>• Increased jobs which in turn will begin to address intergeneration inequalities;</li> <li>• Maximised funding opportunities to support growth industries creating more green and blue jobs.</li> </ul>
<b>Membership</b>	<p>Scottish Government representative            Scotland Office (UK Government) representative            Member of Parliament for Inverclyde</p>

	<p>Member of Scottish Parliament for Greenock and Inverclyde (Constituency)</p> <p>Member of the Scottish Parliament for Renfrewshire North and West (Constituency)</p> <p>Members of the Scottish Parliament for West Scotland (Region)</p> <p>Inverclyde Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader of Inverclyde Council</li> <li>• Convenor Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</li> <li>• Group leaders and independent representative</li> <li>• Chief Executive</li> <li>• Corporate Director for Education, Communities and Organisational Development</li> <li>• Interim Director Environment and Regeneration</li> <li>• Service Manager Regeneration</li> <li>• Service Manager Communications</li> </ul> <p>Skills Development Scotland representative</p> <p>Department of Work and Pensions representative</p> <p>West College Scotland representative</p> <p>Riverside Inverclyde Property Holdings representative</p> <p>Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce representative</p> <p>Federation of Small Businesses representative</p>
<b>Frequency of Meetings</b>	8 weekly.
<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>The Secretariat will be provided by Inverclyde Council , working to the following standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The agenda and papers will be circulated at least a week before a meeting.</li> <li>• Agreed actions arising from a meeting will be circulated to attendees no more than a week after the meeting has taken place.</li> <li>• Co-ordination of meeting venue / virtual meeting arrangements, presentations and papers needed for meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting / monitoring arrangements</b>	<p>Inverclyde Council Full Council</p> <p>Alliance Board through Local Outcome Improvement Plan</p>
<b>Review Arrangements</b>	Review after 6 months.