

A meeting of the Inverclyde Council will be held on Thursday 16 February at 4pm.

Members may attend the meeting in person at Greenock Municipal Buildings or via remote online access. Webex joining details will be sent to Members and Officers prior to the meeting. Members are requested to notify Committee Services by 12 noon on Wednesday 15 February 2023 how they intend to access the meeting.

In the event of connectivity issues, Members are asked to use the *join by phone* number in the Webex invitation and as noted above.

Please note that this meeting will be live-streamed via YouTube with the exception of any business which is treated as exempt in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

Further information relating to the recording and live-streaming of meetings can be found at the end of this notice.

IAIN STRACHAN
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

BUSINESS

****Copy to follow**

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest	Page
NEW BUSINESS	
<p>2. Minutes of Meetings of The Inverclyde Council, Committees, Sub-Committees and Boards</p> <p>Appointment Panel – Head of Children, Families & Criminal Justice (Chief Social Work Officer) (3 November 2022) (pp 325)</p> <p>Environment & Regeneration Committee (Special) (30 November 2022) (pp 326)</p> <p>Inverclyde Council (1 December 2022) (pp 327-333)</p> <p>Inverclyde Council (Special) (1 December 2022) (pp 334)</p> <p>Appointment Panel - Head of Children, Families & Criminal Justice (Chief Social Work Officer) (5 December 2022) (pp 335)</p> <p>Local Review Body (7 December 2022) (pp 336-337)</p> <p>Inverclyde Council (Special) (15 December 2022) (pp 338-339)</p> <p>Appointment Panel – Director of Environment & Regeneration (20 December 2022) (pp 340)</p> <p>Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel (5 January 2023) (pp 1-3)</p> <p>Appointment Panel – Director of Environment & Regeneration (10 January 2023) (pp 4)</p> <p>Audit Committee (10 January 2023) (pp 5-6)</p> <p>General Purposes Board (11 January 2023) (pp 7)</p> <p>Local Review Body (12 January 2023) (pp 8-9)</p>	

<p>Environment & Regeneration Committee (12 January 2023) (pp 10-17) Education & Communities Committee (24 January 2023) (pp 18-22) Policy & Resources Committee (31 January 2023) (pp 23-28) Local Review Body (1 February 2023) (pp 29-33) ** Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel (2 February 2023) (pp) ** General Purposes Board (8 February 2023) (pp)</p>	
REMITTS FROM COMMITTEES	
<p>3. Participation in the Edinburgh Process and Declaration – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee Report by Head of Legal & Democratic Services</p>	p
<p>4. Proposed Redetermination Order – The Inverclyde Council, Mirren’s Shore, Port Glasgow (Redetermination of Means of Exercise of Public Right of Passage) Order 2022 – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee Report by Head of Legal & Democratic Services</p>	p
<p>5. Service Concession Flexibility – Accounting Change Proposal – Remit from Policy & Resources Committee Report by Head of Legal & Democratic Services</p>	p
ROUTINE ITEMS AND DECISIONS FOR NOTING	
<p>6. Inverclyde Task Force Update Report by Director Environment & Regeneration</p>	p
NOTICES OF MOTIONS	
<p>7. Inverclyde Out of Hours Services – Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire Report by Head of Legal & Democratic Services</p>	p
<p>8. The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill – Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson Report by Head of Legal & Democratic Services</p>	p
<p>The documentation relative to the following item has been treated as exempt information in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, the nature of the exempt information being that set out in the paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act as detailed in the minute of the relevant Committee, Sub-Committee or Board.</p>	
NEW BUSINESS	
<p>9. Business in the Appendix</p>	
<p>The reports are available publicly on the Council’s website and the minute of the meeting will be submitted to the next standing meeting of the Inverclyde Council. The agenda for the meeting of the Inverclyde Council will be available publicly on the Council’s website.</p> <p>Please note: this meeting may be recorded or live-streamed via YouTube and the Council’s internet site, where it will be capable of repeated viewing. At the start of the meeting the Provost/Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded or live-streamed.</p>	

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Enquiries to – **Diane Sweeney** – Tel 01475 712147

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	16 February 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Report No:	LS/017/23
Contact Officer:	Diane Sweeney	Contact No:	01475 712147
Subject:	Participation in the Edinburgh Process and Declaration – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to request the Council consider a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee.

1.3 The Environment & Regeneration Committee at its meeting of 12 January 2023 considered a report by the Interim Director Environment & Regeneration seeking Committee approval to participate in the Edinburgh Process and Declaration.

1.4 A copy of the report to the Environment & Regeneration Committee is attached as Appendix 1 and the Edinburgh Declaration dated 31 August 2020 is attached as Appendix 2.

1.5 The Environment & Regeneration Committee decided the following:

That (a) it be agreed to participate in the Edinburgh Process and Declaration; and (b) the Committee's decision is remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Council is asked to endorse the decision of the Environment & Regeneration Committee and participate in the Edinburgh Process and Declaration.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	12 January 2023
Report By:	Interim Director, Environment & Regeneration	Report No:	E+R/23/01/06/SJ
Contact Officer:	Stuart Jamieson	Contact No:	01475 712402
Subject:	Participation in the Edinburgh Process and Declaration		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 To seek Committee approval to Participate in the Edinburgh Process and Declaration.
- 1.3 On behalf of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Scottish Government has led a global partnership in the Edinburgh Process to consult sub-national governments including regional, city and local authorities on their role in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and targets.
- 1.4 The Edinburgh Process seeks to amplify the voices of the subnational constituency in the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and ensure inclusion of all levels of government in the planning, reporting and implementation phases.
- 1.5 A key output from the Edinburgh process was the Edinburgh Declaration. The Declaration calls on the Parties to the CBD to recognise the vital role of sub-national governments, cities and local authorities in delivering for biodiversity and implementing actions to meet the goals and targets. It demonstrates the commitment of sub-national authorities across the world to work with parties to the CBD to deliver for nature over the next decade while recognising that 'In order to achieve truly transformational change for nature, all levels of government and society must work more effectively together over the next decade'.
- 1.6 To date the Council has maintained a watching brief on the activities of the initiative however it is felt appropriate to now participate in order to maximise the collective outputs and potential funding sources.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee agrees to participate in the Edinburgh Process and Declaration, and that it be remitted to full Council for endorsement.

Stuart Jamieson
Interim Director, Environment & Regeneration

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 Supported by the Convention on Biodiversity the Scottish Government has developed the Edinburgh Process and Declaration out of concern about the significant implications that the loss of biodiversity and climate change has on our livelihood and communities.
- 3.2 The declaration seeks to promote the 2050 vision “living in harmony with nature” and ensures a clear pathway towards the 2050 Vision and corresponds with the ambition of subnational governments, cities and local authorities towards addressing the most pressing global challenges, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, health and poverty alleviation, as well as biodiversity. taking action across society to put biodiversity on a path to recovery for the benefit of the planet and people.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-biodiversity-framework/pages/preamble>

- 3.3 Indeed, the COVID-19 global pandemic has reminded us how important it is to live in harmony with nature. Healthy biodiversity and the ecosystem services that it provides are key for human well-being and to build the resilience of our cities and regions, both during and after the pandemic, and it should be central to our recovery.
- 3.4 Inverclyde has a rich ecosystem stretching from the River Clyde to the peatlands in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and in recent times has benefitted from funds such as the Nature Restoration Fund which has sought to promote and restore biodiversity.
- 3.5 To date the Council has maintained a watching brief on the Edinburgh Process however by becoming a signatory it acknowledges the work of the other two hundred and seventy three signatories across forty countries on biodiversity as well as affording a wider opportunity to access funding sources for biodiversity implementation.

4.0 PROPOSAL

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Council become a signatory to the Edinburgh Process and Declaration.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	X		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty		X	
Children & Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing		X	
Environmental & Sustainability	X		
Data Protection		X	

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
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N/A					
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Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

5.3 Legal/Risk

None.

5.4 Human Resources

None.

5.5 Strategic

Biodiversity is a key outcome for the Council and the Alliance Board.

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

None.

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
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, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA 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 – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty.

5.7 Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

5.8 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.9 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 – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

EDINBURGH DECLARATION

For subnational governments, cities and local authorities on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

31 August 2020

Preamble

We, subnational governments, cities and local authorities - as participants and contributors to the *Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*, and supported by the Secretariat and some Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity - are **deeply concerned** about the significant implications that the loss of biodiversity and climate change has on our livelihood and communities. The impacts on our environment, infrastructure, economy, health and wellbeing, and our enjoyment of nature are already visible. Indeed, the COVID-19 global pandemic has reminded us how important it is to live in harmony with nature. Healthy biodiversity and the ecosystem services that it provides are key for human well-being and to build the resilience of our cities and regions, both during and after the pandemic, and it should be central to our recovery.

We **are concerned** that, as outlined in the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, none of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets have been fully met; that action by CBD Parties alone is insufficient to put us on a path to the 2050 vision of 'living in harmony with nature' or to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and that convergence across multilateral environment agreements (MEA's) is progressing at too slow a pace.

We **acknowledge** that the IPBES *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* concludes that, despite insufficient action, it is not too late for the climate or for biodiversity, but that transformative action is needed at all levels.

We **recognise** the need for transformative change across terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and across urban development and all productive sectors to ensure enhanced food security, human health and sustainable livelihoods whilst avoiding, mitigating or minimising the negative impact on biodiversity. We also **recognise** the role that many indigenous peoples and local communities have in the management of their territories, through effective biodiversity mainstreaming across all sectors.

We **note** the need to develop effective policy, governance and financing solutions at all levels of government and to ensure vertical integration across national, subnational, city and local levels to effect transformative change. These should address both the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, and integrate all dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, economic, cultural and social).

We **also note** the vital role that indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, non-governmental organisations, and wider society, play in decision making and in taking action at

subnational, city and local levels, and that there should be a fully collaborative approach to ensure active participation of these groups.

We **highlight** the key role of the private sector, including the financial sector, and **encourage** them to catalyse the transformative change needed through full, active and responsible engagement, in support of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable use.

We **emphasise** the key role that subnational governments, cities and local authorities already play in protecting and enhancing biodiversity and in delivering actions across planning, implementation, and monitoring.

We **welcome** the endorsement of the *Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities, and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020)* under Decision X/22 and **recognise** the productive role that this has played in the last decade mobilising subnational, city and local authority actions towards implementing the goals of the Convention; and in fostering an increased recognition on the critical role of our constituency in the CBD.

We **celebrate** the commitments and statements already issued by subnational governments, cities and local authorities including recent declarations of intent¹², and in particular the results achieved through the outputs of the 5th and 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments – the *Quintana Roo Communique on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity* (2016) and the *Sharm El-Sheikh Communique for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People* (2018).

We **acknowledge** the need to build upon the existing *Plan of Action* under Decision X/22, and the advocacy agenda of subnational governments, cities and local authorities over the past decade, and **collectively commit** to raising our ambition and action in the coming decade.

Development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

We **welcome** the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in particular clear, action based, SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) targets and the inclusion of an integrated monitoring framework.

We **thank** the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for taking an inclusive and participatory approach in developing the framework; and **welcome** the ‘whole of government’ approach embodied in the framework, which captures the principle of governance across all levels of government, including at the level of subnational governments, cities and local authorities.

¹ [Aburra Valley – Medellin Declaration of Metropolitan Areas to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework \(2019\)](#)

² [Carta de São Paulo - BIO2020 – Brazilian Perspectives for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework \(2020\)](#)

We continue to **support** the 2050 vision “*living in harmony with nature*” and stand ready with a raised ambition to make a contribution that will deliver a local to global impact, and meaningfully contribute to the long term goals.

We **share the ambition** of the 2030 Mission as was set out in the Zero Draft version of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, ‘*To take urgent action across society to put biodiversity on a path to recovery for the benefit of the planet and people.*’ This ensures a clear pathway towards the 2050 Vision and corresponds with the ambition of subnational governments, cities and local authorities towards addressing the most pressing global challenges, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, health and poverty alleviation, as well as biodiversity.

Implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

We **welcome** the inclusion of subnational governments, cities and local authorities, as key enablers for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. However, we **recognise** that our role extends beyond the provision of enabling conditions.

Subnational governments, cities and local authorities play key roles in conserving, restoring and reducing threats to biodiversity, in meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing, in developing the tools and solutions needed for implementing biodiversity protection actions, and in monitoring and reporting.

We **recognise** that our actions in implementing and mainstreaming biodiversity ensure that support mechanisms and enabling conditions are in place at subnational, city and local levels - and that a vertically integrated and cross-cutting governance approach would enhance these efforts.

We **highlight** the significant role that subnational governments, cities and local authorities play in resource mobilisation for implementation and mainstreaming of biodiversity actions. We **stress** the need for immediate and increased efforts to mobilise financial resources at all levels of government and from the private sector.

We are uniquely and most effectively positioned to deliver the outreach, awareness, and uptake of the framework across the whole of society, facilitating engagement with key stakeholders to implement the framework at subnational, city and local levels. Nevertheless, we **recognise** that more can be done to build upon already existing policies and frameworks to ensure the full participation of the whole of society in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

COMMITMENT FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Subnational governments, cities and local authorities will continue to build upon our previous efforts, to deliver transformative actions by:

- Recognising the overall value of nature and integrating it into subnational, city and local planning, management and governance instruments;

- Implementing appropriate actions that deliver on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework goals and action targets;
- Aligning biodiversity strategies and actions, and our monitoring and reporting efforts with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), within our subnational, city and local competencies;
- Increasing resource mobilisation for investment in biodiversity action at subnational, city and local levels, and providing incentives to ensure positive outcomes;
- Mainstreaming biodiversity across public, private and business sectors to achieve greater environmental, societal and economic resilience;
- Communicating, educating and raising public awareness with specific efforts to make knowledge available in several languages;
- Strengthening capacity building in order to implement nature-based solutions (NBS) and green and blue infrastructure, particularly through ecosystem based approaches and as a contribution to a green recovery from COVID-19;
- Providing opportunities for knowledge exchange across subnational, city and local levels, and between all sectors of society;
- Sharing best practices across subnational, city and local levels, to efficiently implement transformative actions;
- Delivering convergence with other intergovernmental agreements and processes, taking forward bold and innovative actions at the subnational, city and local level which result in mutually beneficial outcomes.

CALL FOR ACTION

We subnational governments, cities and local authorities therefore **call upon** Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to;

- I. Take strong and bold actions to bring about transformative change, as outlined in the IPBES global assessment report, in order to halt biodiversity loss.
- II. Recognise the vital role of subnational governments, cities and local authorities, in delivering the 2050 vision of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the 2030 mission as set out in the Zero Draft document; and to explicitly place that recognition throughout the framework text, including the monitoring framework for the goals and targets.
- III. Support the adoption at COP15, of a new dedicated Decision for the greater inclusion of subnational governments, cities and local authorities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; that builds upon and renews the *Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020)* as endorsed under Decision X/22; and that significantly raises ambition for subnational, city and local implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework throughout the next decade.
- IV. Establish a multi-stakeholder platform that ensures representation of subnational governments, cities and local authorities to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.



We, subnational governments, cities and local authorities, **stand ready** to meet the challenge of delivering, alongside Parties, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to ensure investment, and play a stronger role in the implementation of the framework through a renewed and significantly stepped-up *Plan of Action for subnational governments, cities and local authorities* for the coming decade.

EDINBURGH PROCESS PARTNERS



Ms Roseanna Cunningham, MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate
Change and Land Reform
On behalf of the Scottish Government



Ms Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion
Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural
Affairs
On behalf of Welsh Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Mr Ashok Sridharan
ICLEI President
On behalf of ICLEI - Local Governments
for Sustainability



Ms Cheryl Jones Fur
Deputy Lord Mayor of Växjö, Sweden
On behalf of ICLEI Europe



Ms Elena Moreno
Regions4 President
Basque Deputy Minister for Environment
On behalf of Regions4 Sustainable
Development



Mr Benoit Charette
Ministre de l'Environnement et de la Lutte
contre les changements climatiques
On behalf of Gouvernement du Québec





Mr Hideaki Ohmura

Governor of Aichi Prefecture

On behalf of the Group of Leading Subnational
Governments toward the Aichi Biodiversity
Targets (GoLS)



Under consideration

On Behalf of the European Committee of
the Regions



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Supported by:



Ms Francesca Osowska

Chief Executive

On behalf of NatureScot



Mr Simon Milne MBE

Regius Keeper

On Behalf of Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh



**Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh**

Dated: 31 August 2020

Report To:	The Inverclyde Council	Date:	16 February 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal and Democratic Services	Report No:	LS/015/23
Contact Officer:	Emma Peacock	Contact No:	01475 712115
Subject:	Proposed Redetermination Order – The Inverclyde Council, Mirren’s Shore, Port Glasgow (Redetermination of Means of Exercise of Public Right of Passage) Order 2022		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to request the Council to consider a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee.

1.3 The Environment & Regeneration Committee meeting held on 12 January 2023, after consideration of a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on the proposed redetermination order in respect of Mirren’s Shore, Port Glasgow (“the Order”), agreed that:

- (i) the Council be asked to confirm the Order and remit it to the Head of Roads and Environmental Services and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to arrange for its implementation; and
- (ii) a proposed amendment to the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) be remitted to the Council for its consideration, namely that where there are no maintained objections to any proposed Redetermination Order, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services will be authorised to confirm such a Redetermination Order on behalf of the Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- 2.1 Approve the confirmation of The Inverclyde Council, Mirren’s Shore, Port Glasgow (Redetermination of Means of Exercise of Public Right of Passage) Order 2022 and remit it to the Head of Roads and Environmental Services and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to take all necessary action to implement the same; and
- 2.2 Approve an amendment to the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) so that the Scheme is amended to the effect that, where there are no maintained objections to any proposed Redetermination Order, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services will be authorised to confirm such a Redetermination Order on behalf of the Council, all as set out in paragraphs 3.4 and 4.2 of this report.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Head of Roads and Environmental Services considers it necessary to redetermine the existing means of exercise of public right of passage on Mirren's Shore, Port Glasgow for the use of cyclists and pedestrians in the interests of road safety due to the narrow width of the roads which are not suitable for vehicles.
- 3.2 The Proposed Order was issued for public consultation on 1 November 2022 with responses invited by 29 November 2022. At the end of the consultation period, no objections were received.
- 3.3 Regulation 14 of The Stopping Up of Roads and Private Accesses and the Redetermination of Public Rights of Passage (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1986 ("the Regulations") provides that where no objection is made to an order, the Roads Authority may confirm the order. The Council is the Roads Authority in relation to Mirren's Shore, Port Glasgow.
- 3.4 The authority to confirm a Redetermination Order, where there are no maintained objections, is not presently delegated to any Officer of the Council. The Council's Scheme of Administration states that the promotion of byelaws, management rules and any necessary orders is reserved to the Full Council. This means that the Full Council must consider a Redetermination Order even where there are no objections to the Order. It is therefore proposed to amend the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) to the effect that where there are no maintained objections to a Redetermination Order, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services will be authorised to confirm any such Redetermination Order on behalf of the Council.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Council confirms the above-mentioned Redetermination Order in respect of Mirren's Shore, Port Glasgow. The form of the Redetermination Order which officers are recommending for approval is included at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) be amended to grant the additional delegation to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, as follows:-

"46. Authorised, where there are no maintained objections to any proposed Redetermination Order, to confirm such Order".

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	X		
Legal/Risk	X		
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		X	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

The costs are contained within the existing budget as specified below.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
83294	Mirren Shore Improvements	2022/23	£91,974.67		

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

5.3 Legal/Risk

The making of the Order is a statutory process, with which the Council has complied, as summarised above. As such, there are no Legal/Risk implications associated with this Report.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no Human Resources implications associated with the making of the Order.

5.5 Strategic

There are no Strategic implications associated with the making of the Order.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Order has been advertised in the Greenock Telegraph and full details of the Order have been made available for public inspection at the Council offices and on the Council's website.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

MIRREN'S SHORE, PORT GLASGOW
(REDETERMINATION OF MEANS
OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT
OF PASSAGE) ORDER 2022

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL,
MIRREN'S SHORE, PORT GLASGOW
(REDETERMINATION OF MEANS OF EXERCISE
OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE) ORDER 2022**

We, The Inverclyde Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on us by Section 152(2) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (as amended) and all other enabling powers, hereby make the following Order:-

1.0 Commencement and citation

1.1 This Order may be cited as "The Inverclyde Council, Mirren's Shore, Port Glasgow (Redetermination of means of exercise of Public Right of Passage) Order 2022" and shall come into operation on the ##### day of ##### Two Thousand and #####.

2.0 Interpretation

2.1 The road in the Port Glasgow area, the extent of which is specified in the map and schedule annexed to this Order, at present a carriageway shall become a cycle track, the right of passage being exercisable by pedal cycles only.

This Order, map and the schedule annexed hereto is sealed with the Common Seal of The Inverclyde Council and subscribed for them and on their behalf by #####.

SCHEDULE

Road to Cycle Track (Refer to Drawing TR/TRO/C218-01)

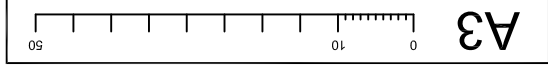
Mirren's Shore

From a point 24m or thereby northeast of the northeast boundary of No. 11A Anderson Street to a point 92m or thereby northwest of the northwest boundary of No. 2 Queen Street.

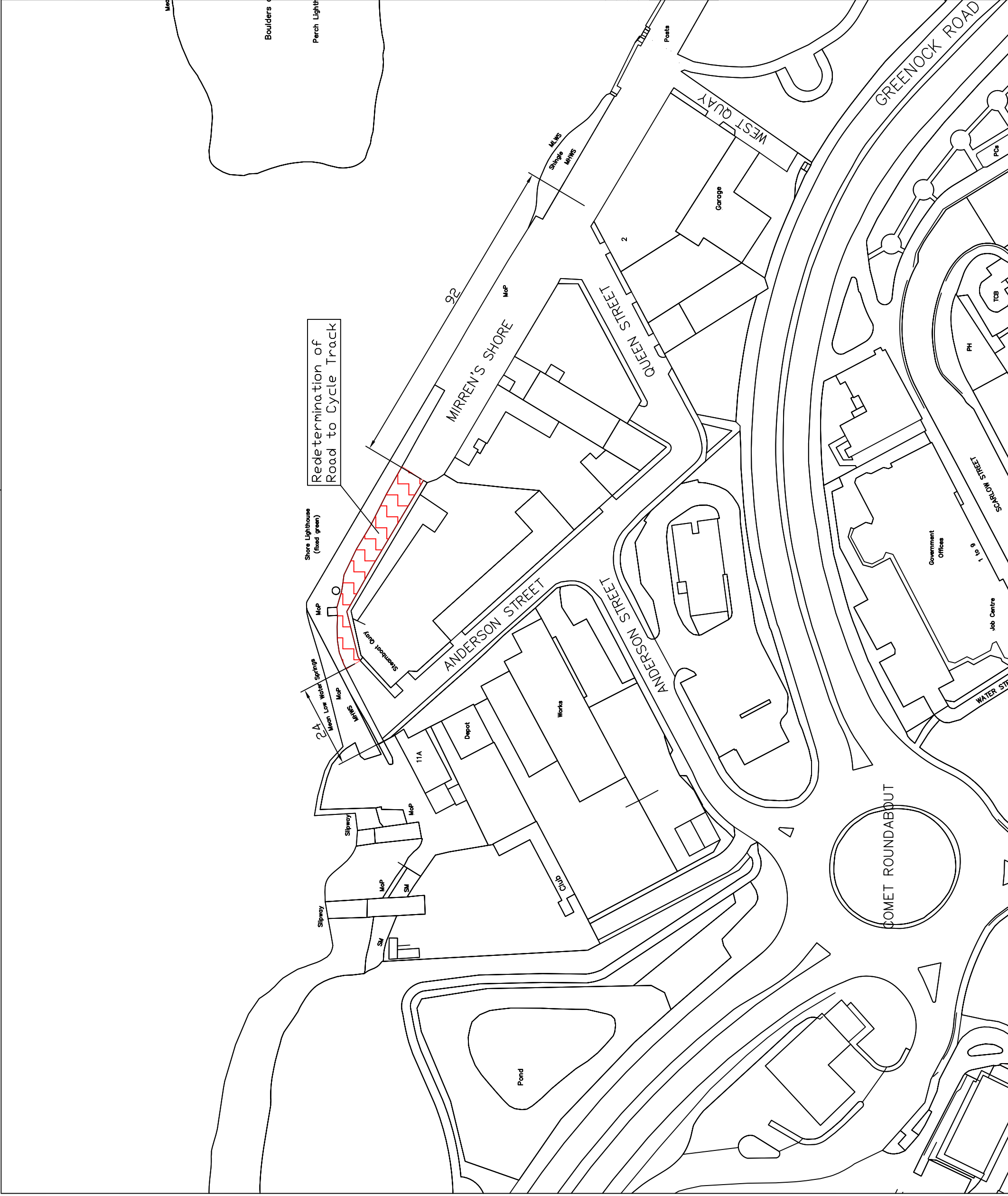
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 See

Stat	Purpose of Issue	Date	Auth

Rev	Description	By	Date	Chk'd	Auth

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL
 Vehicle Maintenance Facility
 8 Pottery Street
 Greenock
 PA15 2UH
 Tel: 01475 717171
 Email: roads@inverclyde.gov.uk
 www.inverclyde.gov.uk

**THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL, MIRREN'S SHORE,
 PORT GLASGOW (REDETERMINATION OF
 MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF
 PASSAGE) ORDER 2022**

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Sheet Size	Original Scale	Designed/Drawn	Checked	Authorised
A3	1:1000	KMM	KMM	EP
Status	Drawing Number	Date	Date	Date
P	TR/TRO/C218-01	OCT '22	OCT '22	OCT '22
		Rev		
		1		

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	16 February 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Report No:	LS/018/23
Contact Officer:	Colin MacDonald	Contact No:	01475 712113
Subject:	Service Concession Flexibility – Accounting Change Proposal – Remit from Policy & Resources Committee		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to request the Council consider a remit from the Policy & Resources Committee.

1.3 The Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting of 31 January 2023 considered a report by the Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance in relation to the accounting treatment of the Council's Schools PPP (Service Concession) contract following the issuing of revised accounting guidance from the Scottish Government.

1.4 A copy of the report to the Policy & Resources Committee is attached as Appendix 1.

1.5 The Policy & Resources Committee decided the following:

- (1) that the following be noted (a) the flexibility offered by Finance Circular 10/2022; (b) the officer proposal as detailed in section 4 of the report; and (c) the potential financial implications;
- (2) that the longer term implications, including the affordability assessment as detailed in section 5.2 and appendix 3 of the report, be noted; and
- (3) that (a) the proposal as detailed in section 4 of the report be approved; and (b) it be noted that any decision to implement the proposal will require approval at the next meeting of the Inverclyde Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Council is asked to endorse the decision of the Policy & Resources Committee in relation to the accounting treatment of the Council's Schools PPP (Service Concession) contract.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	31 January 2023
Report By:	Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance	Report No:	FIN/01/23/AP/LA
Contact Officer:	Alan Puckrin	Contact No:	01475 712223
Subject:	Service Concession Flexibility - Accounting Change Proposal		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to highlight the significant financial benefits to the Council over the medium to longer term of a proposed change to the accounting treatment of the Council's Schools PPP (Service Concession) contract following the issuing of revised accounting guidance by the Scottish Government.
- 1.3 As part of the Financial Flexibilities raised with the Scottish Government in 2020 arising from the significant financial pressures faced by Councils during Covid, it was agreed that Councils could decide in either 2022/23 or 2023/24 that the accounting for PPP contracts could be reviewed to better align the costs being incurred by Councils with the life of the asset being paid for in these contracts. Inverclyde has one such contract, the e4i schools PPP contract.
- 1.4 Officers have developed a proposal based on Local Government Finance Circular 10/2022 issued on 6 September 2022 and the details are contained in the body of the report along with the potential financial implications. Whilst in the immediate and medium term financial gains are significant and will be very welcome in the context of the financial challenges facing the Council, it is important that Members consider the longer term implications and recognise this proposal represents a one off benefit, the use of which needs to be carefully considered.
- 1.5 In line with the Finance Circular, any proposal will require approval by the Full Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the flexibility offered by Finance Circular 10/2022, the officer proposal contained in section 4 of the report and the potential financial implications.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee notes the longer term implications, including the affordability assessment outlined in Section 5.2 and Appendix 3.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the Committee approve the proposal contained in section 4 of the report and note that any decision to implement the proposal will require to be approved at the next meeting of the Council.

Alan Puckrin
Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Council entered into a 30 year PPP contract with e4i in 2008 to build 4 schools. The Council pays an annual sum called the Unitary Charge to e4i which covers the capital cost of the buildings, facilities management costs, cyclical repairs, financing costs and a number of other costs such as insurance.
- 3.2 As part of the financial arrangement, the Scottish Government committed to pay £6.066million for 30 years towards the Unitary Charge which, in the first full year was £8.842million. The contract contains an indexation clause which sets the annual indexation as 2/3rds of the December RPI. In 2022/23 the Unitary Charge now sits at £10.835million.
- 3.3 The PPP contract is viewed as a Service Concession arrangement which has specific accounting requirements. However, as part of discussions between the Scottish Government and Cosla in 2020 during the early days of the Covid Pandemic it was agreed to investigate whether the accounting for Service Concessions could be reviewed in order to better reflect the expected life of the asset created which could generate a potential one off and/or recurring sum to be used to mitigate the impact of Covid on Council budgets.
- 3.4 This proposal got bogged down in a separate but related issue to do with a review of Capital Accounting and the current Statutory Mitigations which result in Council Budgets reflecting loans charges rather than depreciation and there have been several updates to Cosla Leaders over the last two years regarding developments. In the summer of 2022, the guidance regarding Accounting for Service Concessions was signed off and Finance Circular 10/2022 was issued on 6 September.
- 3.5 The Committee should note that this flexibility is temporary and needs to be approved and implemented in either 2022/23 or 2023/24.
- 3.6 Having reviewed the circular within the Accountancy team, it is the view of the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance that this flexibility potentially affords a major one off and recurring financial benefit which in the context of the significant Revenue, Capital and Reserves budgetary pressures should be seriously considered by Elected Members.
- 3.7 It is important that Members note that the foregoing proposal, if supported by the Policy & Resources Committee will require formal approval by the Full Council.
- 3.8 Advice and support regarding this issue has been received from the Directors of Finance Section, Scottish Government officials and the Council's Treasury Consultants, Link.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that rather than the Council Budget reflecting the repayment of the capital investment in building the schools over 30 years as per the PPP contract, the Council account for this over a 45 year period. This compares to the current practice of writing off a Council funded new build school over 40 years. The reason for the extended life of a PPP school are the level of maintenance obligations reflected in the PPP contract.
- 4.2 In line with the current approved policy in relation to loans charges principal repayments, it is proposed that the 45 year repayment is made on an annuity basis rather than a fixed principal basis. Officers believe the overall annual cost of the annuity method better reflects the benefits received by the Council from the capital investment in the schools. Additionally, a Net Present Value (NPV) analysis shows a consistent net annual cost.

- 4.3 Officers have calculated that the principal repayments from 2009/10 to 2022/23 total £22.219 million. Based on the proposed 45 year annuity repayment then the principal repayments would be £7.471 million by 31 March 2023. This represents a one -off cost non-cash backed increase in reserves of £14.748 million which could be applied to the 2023/24 accounts.
- 4.4 It is important that the Committee understand that payments to e4i and grant payments from the Scottish Government will not be affected and will continue until 2039/40. This proposal represents a “non-cash” increase in the Council’s Reserves which will require the Council to use cash balances when spending the sums generated and will need to be managed within the overall Treasury Management Strategy of the Council.
- 4.5 Due to the 15 year extension to the principal repayment period then there is an on going revenue saving over the period 2023/24 to 2039/40 in addition to the one off sum referred to in paragraph 4.3 above. The amount saved each year varies from year to year due to the nature of the PPP principal payments profile. Over the next 5 years it is proposed to generate a fixed saving of £1.65million / year. To achieve this £600,000 smoothing reserve will be required.
- 4.6 Appendix 1 shows the estimated savings/costs over the period to the final potential repayment in 2053/54. From this it can be seen that based on a 3.5% NPV the net financial benefit of the proposal is £18.31million. Appendix 2 shows how the 5 year saving and smoothing reserve is calculated.
- 4.7 The affordability of the proposals in this report needs to be considered especially in the longer term when the Scottish Government grant stops, these are outlined in paragraph 5.2 below.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	x		
Legal/Risk	x		
Human Resources		x	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	x		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			x
Children & Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing			x
Environmental & Sustainability			x
Data Protection			x

5.2 Finance

Understandably the proposal will appear very attractive to Members given the significant financial pressures faced by the Council and the time limited period which Councils can take advantage of this flexibility. It is important however that as part of the overall consideration, Members are aware of the longer term financial implications.

Taking a prudent view, it is estimated that by 2039/40 the Unitary Charge payment will be around £15.5million. At this time the Scottish Government support will stop leaving a net Council contribution of around £9.4million of which £7.3million will be included in the Council Budget. From this sum the Council will require to fund the running costs previously paid by e4i for the 4

schools plus the deferred principal repayments which, as can be seen from Appendix 1 get as high as £4.8million in 2053/54.

When added to the estimated running costs of the four schools (suitably indexed) and the loss of investment income arising from the expending of £14.7 million “non-cash” reserves then, as can be seen from Appendix 3, the proposal is affordable and leaves some scope for reinvestment in the school estate.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Reserves	General Fund	2023/24	(£14.748) million		One off back dated adjustment based on the proposal in this report.
	SCA Smoothing Reserve	From 2023/24	£0.602million		Time limited reserve per Appendix 2 to generate a £1.65million recurring saving

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
Education	Unitary Charge Payments	2023/24	(£1.65)million		Average saving over 2023/24- 2027/28.
	Capital Repayments	From 2039 to 2054	£3.4million	Unitary Charge Allowance	Average on -going annual principal repayments over 2039-2054
Miscellaneous	Internal Resources Interest	Phased from 2023/24	£0.4million (estimate)		Estimated loss of investment income arising from spending £14.7 million “non-cash” reserves and already factored into the latest 2023/25 Budget figures.

5.3 Legal/Risk

The proposals in this paper have no impact on the existing PPP contract between the Council and e4i or the Scottish Government commitment to pay the Council £6.066 million each year until 2039/40.

In line with the Finance Circular 10/2022, the proposals in this report will require Council approval.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no HR implications arising.

5.5 Strategic

This decision will free up resources for use towards meeting the Council's Financial Strategy objectives. It will however also tie the Council into a commitment to repay the initial capital investment in the 4 PPP schools for a further 15 years which will impact on available funding for other initiatives post 2039/40.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Members Budget Working Group support the contents of this report and the Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance has consulted with Link Treasury Services, the Council's Treasury Consultants who agree the figures and technical issues arising from this proposal.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Finance Circular 10/2022 - Local government finance circular 10/2022 - finance leases and service concession arrangements: statutory guidance:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-government-finance-circular-10-2022-finance-leases-and-service-concession-arrangements-statutory-guidance/>

Appendix 1

Total proposed rescheduling model

Year	PPP principal repayments	Current position	Principal repayments based on simple 45 year annuity @ 6.118%		
		Current repayment £000	Revised repayment £000	(Saving)/cost £000	NPV 3.5% £000
0	pre 2023/24	22,219	7,471	(14,748)	(14,748)
1	2023/24	2,206	810	(1,396)	(1,349)
2	2024/25	2,309	859	(1,449)	(1,353)
3	2025/26	2,745	912	(1,833)	(1,653)
4	2026/27	2,590	968	(1,623)	(1,414)
5	2027/28	2,374	1,027	(1,347)	(1,134)
6	2028/29	3,067	1,090	(1,978)	(1,609)
7	2029/30	2,799	1,156	(1,642)	(1,291)
8	2030/31	2,771	1,227	(1,544)	(1,172)
9	2031/32	3,100	1,302	(1,798)	(1,319)
10	2032/33	3,503	1,382	(2,121)	(1,504)
11	2033/34	3,016	1,466	(1,550)	(1,062)
12	2034/35	3,547	1,556	(1,991)	(1,317)
13	2035/36	3,559	1,651	(1,907)	(1,220)
14	2036/37	4,112	1,752	(2,359)	(1,458)
15	2037/38	4,405	1,859	(2,546)	(1,520)
16	2038/39	5,104	1,973	(3,131)	(1,805)
17	2039/40	4,212	2,094	(2,119)	(1,180)
18	2040/41		2,222	2,222	1,196
19	2041/42		2,358	2,358	1,226
20	2042/43		2,502	2,502	1,257
21	2043/44		2,655	2,655	1,289
22	2044/45		2,818	2,818	1,322
23	2045/46		2,990	2,990	1,355
24	2046/47		3,173	3,173	1,390
25	2047/48		3,367	3,367	1,425
26	2048/49		3,573	3,573	1,461
27	2049/50		3,792	3,792	1,498
28	2050/51		4,024	4,024	1,536
29	2051/52		4,270	4,270	1,575
30	2052/53		4,531	4,531	1,614
31	2053/54		4,808	4,808	1,655
Total		77,637	77,637		(18,310)

Appendix 2

Saving Smoothing Reserve Calculation

<u>Year</u>	<u>Actual Saving</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>Proposed Saving</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>Difference</u> <u>£000</u>
2023/24	1396	1650	254
2024/25	1449	1650	201
2025/26	1833	1650	-183
2026/27	1623	1650	27
2027/28	1347	1650	303
		Smoothing Reserve Required	<u>602</u>

AP
8/12/22

Appendix 3

Affordability of Service Concession Proposal
As at 2040

	<u>£million</u>
Estimated Unitary Charge 2039/40	15.5
less Scottish Government Grant (ends 30/9/39)	<u>-6.1</u>
	9.4
Less Principal Saving in 2039/40	-2.1
Budget available in 2039/40	<u>7.3</u>
less: 2040 post-PPP School Running costs (est)	-1.6
less: Investment Income foregone on £14.7 million	-0.4
<u>Amount of Unitary Charge Budget remaining</u>	<u>5.3</u>

Note - The remaining sum will require to fund the revised repayments set out in Appendix 1 which peak at £4.808million in 2053/54 . This demonstrates the affordability within estimated resources

Finance Services
9/1/23

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	16 February 2023
Report By:	Director - Environment & Regeneration	Report No:	IC/23/02/01/SJ/JH
Contact Officer:	Jennifer Horn	Contact No:	01475 715573
Subject:	Inverclyde Task Force Update		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 This report is to provide an update to Council on the Inverclyde Task Force.

1.3 Since its inception three Task Force meetings have taken place, namely in June 2022, October 2022, and January 2023. These meetings have been multi-agency meetings involving the UK Government, Scottish Government, Inverclyde Council, and many national and local organisations.

1.4 The Inverclyde Task Force paper which was noted at Council on the 1 December 2022 set out that there would be six-monthly update papers, however due to the recent news regarding the potential closure of Amazon's Fulfilment Centre in Gourrock it was considered necessary for an update paper following the January Task Force meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Council note the activity of the Inverclyde Task Force and continue to support its purpose.

Stuart W Jamieson
Director - Environment & Regeneration

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Inverclyde Task Force was set up to address the socio economic imbalance which Inverclyde currently faces. Three Task Force Meetings have now taken place. The first in June 2022, the second in October 2022 and the third in January 2023. All three have had Ministerial presence and they have been supported by senior civil servants from both the UK and Scottish Governments, senior officers from public sector agencies, as well as support from local stakeholders such as West College Scotland and the Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce.
- 3.2 The first meeting focused on the Fraser of Allander report with a presentation from Professor Mairi Spowage. Discussions at the meeting then focused on the importance of addressing population decline, increasing affordable housing, implementing employment initiatives and improving local infrastructure. The minutes of this meeting were included with the December report to Council.
- 3.3 The October Task Force, a presentation on the bids that were underway for Shared Prosperity, Levelling Up, Green Freeports as well projects that had secured funding and are being delivered; Greenock Ocean Terminal, Inchgreen and Inverkip. The Chamber of Commerce presented findings of the business survey through which members highlighted key challenges such as recruitment, connectivity, and increasing costs. A presentation on a land and business premises survey highlighted that while there was some availability some land/properties required significant investment before they could be developed therefore making them less competitive when compared with sites where investment has been made to increase the attractiveness of land/property. Further updates were also given regarding the work of the Local Employability Partnership and the Economy Group by the Chief Executive and the Interim Director – Environment and Regeneration respectively.
- 3.4 The minutes of the October meeting are in appendix 1.
- 3.5 The third Task Force meeting took place on 23 January 2023 and the agenda included: Amazon, updates from sub-groups, presentation from the Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub and update on bids.

Amazon

- 3.6 The Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise gave an update on his discussions with Amazon regarding their announcement to close the Gourock Fulfilment Centre. He stated his disappointment regarding the lack of information been given by Amazon from his first meeting but went on to advise that they have agreed to continue engagement. The Minister indicated that Skills Development Scotland are leading through their Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE). At this time discussions centre around whether it is possible for Amazon to continue operating from Gourock and then supporting the employees to move to alternative employments/training. In addition, the Minister stated that Amazon had agreed to engage with the Task Force meetings and through discussions it was agreed that a separate subgroup with the sole focus of Amazon should be created. Further discussions highlighted that many organisations had been approached by local employers who have presented employment opportunities for any Amazon employee. It was agreed that SDS should be the lead organisation and any information or offers of support should be channelled through SDS to ensure that information was coordinated and clear.

Subgroup Updates

- 3.7 The Director - Environment and Regeneration gave an update on the business subgroup which has had its first meetings. It is hoped that, through members networks and opportunities explored to attract other businesses and individuals to Inverclyde.

- 3.8 The Director of Environment and Regeneration also updated that officers are exploring opportunities for cluster and growth sectors, particularly in the marine and manufacturing sector. Discussions are taking place with key businesses/employers and also with the UK and Scottish Government officials.
- 3.9 The Chief Executive provided an update on the Local Employability Partnership and the decision to create a separate Task Force subgroup which is due to have its first meeting on the 10 February 2023. In addition, the Chief Executive gave an update on the progress of the HSCP who are working to create a Social Care Academy.

Intelligence Hub – Presentation on Skills Gaps and Opportunities

- 3.10 The Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub provided a presentation on how Inverclyde can assess at a very local level the gap in skills, what is required now and what is required for the future and options/opportunities to boost skills and employability. The Intelligence Hub carried out a desk top based study, building upon the recommendations of the Fraser of Allander report which was presented at the first Task Force. The Intelligence Hub highlighted challenges of low business activity, skill supply to meet employment demand, and the scale of the inclusion task. They also highlighted opportunities of building on existing specialisms and opportunities that are place specific e.g. marine, opportunities e.g. human health and growth sectors e.g. scientific and technical activities. The presentation concluded with next steps which is recommended to further the desk top study with community and business engagement.

Update on Bids

- 3.11 The Director of Environment and Regeneration gave an update on Green Freeport and Levelling Up bids.
- 3.12 The Clyde Green Freeport was unfortunately unsuccessful. The Clyde Green Freeport Bid was a partnership between AGS Airports' Glasgow Airport, Mossend International Railfreight Park, Peel Ports' Clydeport, Renfrewshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Glasgow City and Inverclyde Council. The partners are working with the UK and Scottish Governments to learn from the bid and where possible realise elements of the bid.
- 3.13 Inverclyde Council's bid to the UK Government's Levelling Up to transform the heart of Greenock Town Centre was successful. Inverclyde Council has been awarded £19.39m, the full amount asked for, of a £21.586m project to create new civic spaces, a restructured more outward looking town centre retail offer, improve links between various parts of the town centre and the waterfront and build in capacity for a potential new education/college facility or town centre housing.
- 3.14 The Levelling Up Fund project will remove the A78 flyover bringing the road to ground level to increase access, remove the bullring roundabout, and 40 per cent of the existing indoor retail space in the Oak Mall, including Hector McNeil House.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial			X
Legal/Risk			x
Human Resources			X
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	X		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X

Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			x

4.2 Finance

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					

4.3 Legal/Risk

N/A

4.4 Human Resources

N/A

4.5 Strategic

The Task Force is aiming to achieve outcomes of the LOIP in relation to depopulation, economic development, employability and creating a successful place.

4.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

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, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.
---	---

(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 – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

4.7 Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

4.8 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

4.9 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 – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 None.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Inverclyde Taskforce Group
Monday 24 October 2022 at 10.30 am
Via Webex**

PRESENT

Stuart McMillan	MSP (Chair)
Councillor Stephen McCabe	Leader of Inverclyde Council
Louise Long	Chief Executive – Inverclyde Council
Councillor Elizabeth Robertson	Inverclyde Council
Councillor Lynne Quinn	Inverclyde Council
Councillor Graeme Brooks	Inverclyde Council
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development – Inverclyde Council
Stuart Jamieson	Interim Director – Environment & Regeneration – Inverclyde Council
Jennifer Horn	Regeneration Manager – Inverclyde Council
Lord Offord of Garvel	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to the Scotland Office
Heather Allan	Executive Assistant to Lord Offord
John Cooper	Special Advisor to the Under Secretary of State to the Scotland Office
Sharon Kelly	Head of Operations (West Region) – Skills Development Scotland
Paul Zealey	Regional Skills Planning Lead – Skills Development Scotland
Liz Cameron	Director and Chief Executive, Scottish Chambers of Commerce
Mark Spragg	President – Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce
David McCarrey	Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Liz Connolly	Principal – West College Scotland
Hisashi Kuboyama	Development Manager – Federation of Small Businesses
Ronnie Cowan	MP
Gavin McDonagh	Riverside Inverclyde
Andrew Docherty	Glasgow City Region Lead – CLGU Scotland
Miriam Simpson	Head of City Deals & Levelling Up, Scotland Office
Colin Cook	Scottish Government Official
Ivan McKee MSP	Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise
Patricia Dowd	Department for Work and Pensions

IN ATTENDANCE

Lisa Mitchell	Chief Executive's Office
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APOLOGIES

Laurence Rockey	Director – Scotland Office
Lauren Bruce	Scotland Office
Councillor Michael McCormick	Inverclyde Council
George Barbour	Service Manager: Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety – Inverclyde Council
Jamie Greene	MSP
Neil Bibby	MSP

ACTION

1. (a) Welcome, Apologies & Introductions

Stuart McMillan (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

(b) Actions of Previous Meeting – 27 June 2022

Louise Long explained that there was an officer group and 2 subgroups; one for economy chaired by Stuart Jamieson and Louise will join the Local Employability Partnership Group to ensure sufficient focus in the right areas.

2. Current Bids

Stuart Jamieson gave a presentation on the current bids for Inverclyde and live regeneration projects. The following was highlighted:

- **Greenock Ocean Terminal** – new dedicated cruise passenger is being built with a museum, gallery space and restaurant. It is expected that there will be 184,900 visitors to Greenock in 2023.
- **Inchgreen** – joint venture, created between the Council with Peel Ports – unlocked deep water marine access with investment of £9.3 million for the area to the West of the Dry Dock. Other than having preferential rates for JV users, the Drydock remains exclusively within the control of Peel.
- **Inverkip** – trunk road improvements at Main Street and Brueacre. Business Case will be submitted to City Deal PMO by April 2023.
- **Shared Prosperity Fund** – awaiting feedback.
- **Levelling Up Fund** - £22 million bid for Greenock Town Centre. The bid proposes the removal of 40% of the Oak Mall Shopping Centre and the bullring car park) and creates a cultural venue.
- **Clyde Green Freeport bid** – awaiting feedback. Air, rail and water bid across the City Region.

Stuart McMillan thanked Stuart Jamieson for his presentation and opened up the meeting for questions / comments.

Councillor McCabe asked for an update in relation to the Drydock at Inchgreen. Stuart advised of the following:

- Extensive discussions took place with Scottish Salmon in relation to the development of a processing plant for the drydock but unfortunately Scottish Salmon have confirmed they have pursued another area.
- Marketing of the site is underway but infrastructure works are required. Councillor McCabe advised that he is keen for any commercial viable proposals to be pursued.
- Plater's Shed is complete – additional work in surrounding area is required before letting out.
- Atlas Decommissioning continues to rent space at the site.
- Regular discussions taking place with Clyde Fisheries about possibilities.

Andrew Docherty advised that a decision should be available for the turn of the year in relation to the bids for Levelling Up and Green Freeports.

Liz Cameron asked if there are any contingency plans for alternative opportunities if the Levelling Up fund or Green Freeport bids are unsuccessful.

Stuart Jamieson confirmed there are no other contingency plans for Levelling Up or Green Freeports however it was agreed that an officer group will consider alternatives.

LL / SJ

3. Business Survey

Mark Spragg gave a presentation on the findings of a survey undertaken with the Chamber of Commerce members. It was noted that there were 65 respondents to the survey – the following was highlighted:

- 60% report that current outturn has declined by more than 10% since the start of the pandemic.
- 64% report challenges in obtaining supplies.
- 57% report they had not changed employee salaries / benefits in the last 12 months.
- 47% report that recruitment has become more difficult.
- 67% do not export – issues impacting businesses ability to grow in Inverclyde include labour/skills shortages, access to business support, insufficient demand, transport links and connectivity. It was highlighted that Brexit has had little impact on exports.
- 29% felt that their current facilities did not provide value.
- 32.3% felt poorly connected.
- Over 50% have not discussed housing quality with employees. Of those who have discussed housing, 31% thought housing was poor / very poor. It was agreed for a piece of work to undertaken in relation to housing for the Taskforce.

SJ

Stuart McMillan thanked Mark for his presentation and opened up the meeting for questions / comments.

Mark concluded that the pressures for Inverclyde include supply chain and associated costings, labour / skills shortage and lack of available funds. Mark also highlighted that there is a high level of congestion driving into / out of Greenock.

It was highlighted that there are about 2,000 businesses in Inverclyde with less than 9 employees. The different clusters of businesses were noted – health and social care, shipping / marine, small retail, small professional and materials / construction.

Mark gave an example on why he located his business in Hillington rather than Inverclyde. It was noted that there were only two locations in Inverclyde which merited consideration – the Custom House Quay and premises in Gourrock.

Liz Cameron advised that more work can be done for businesses in relation to importing and exporting. She advised that housing is a challenge and suggested that more private housing is required. Liz suggested further discussions were needed with property developers.

Hisashi Kuboyama advised that the number of small businesses operating in Inverclyde is in the bottom 3 in Scotland. It was noted that as of August 2021 around 900 Covid loans (£37 million) were provided to businesses in Inverclyde which will need to be repaid.

Ruth Binks highlighted that a Senior Phase Action Group has been set up to look at the pipeline of support and support the right career choice for young people. Education Services are working with West College Scotland and Skills Development Scotland to look at how young people can be skilled in line with local employment opportunities. Liz Connolly agreed that further discussions are required.

RB

Ivan McKee advised that work has been undertaken at a Scottish level in relation to exporting. He suggested that it could be beneficial to invite a representative from Scottish Development International (SDI) to attend the next meeting of the Taskforce to provide updates in relation to overseas businesses investing in Scotland. Ivan indicated that we need to know our target market for inward investment. Data from the Inward Investment Plan (which is 3 years old) puts Inverclyde as no. 8 in the rankings (behind Edinburgh and ahead of Glasgow). Ivan highlighted that many businesses do not wish to export – focus needs to be given to those businesses who have the capacity to export.

LL / SJ

It was agreed for a further survey to be undertaken with businesses with different questions including understanding the need for export advice. Agreed to widen the questionnaire to bigger businesses in the area – Stuart Jamieson and Mark will progress.

SJ / MS

4. Business Premises

Jennifer Horn gave a presentation on a desk top exercise of site visits to Inverclyde. The following was highlighted:

Land

- Significant variant in vacant and derelict land – most of the land is brownfield sites. It was noted that Inverkip and Spango Valley are the largest vacant sites.
- Site investigation works have not been undertaken.
- Port Glasgow and Greenock have mostly amber sites – reasonable condition but would benefit from upgrade.
- White sites were noted as in poor condition, no marketing potential without significant investment.
- James Watt Dock and Harbour – various cluster of vacant land.
- Inchgreen – strategic investment location.
- Inverkip – has planning permission in principle for housing.
- Port Glasgow – Riverside Inverclyde development at Kelburn.

Property

- Retail spaces are small, largest retail property is within the Oak Mall Shopping Centre. It was highlighted that national retailers require larger properties.
- Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock have mostly amber sites.

Stuart McMillan thanked Jennifer Horn for her presentation and opened up the meeting for questions / comments.

Sharon Kelly asked how hybrid working is impacting on Inverclyde. It was noted that the way of working has changed. Ivan highlighted that there is little appetite for real estate space.

5. Skills Academy

Louise provided the following updates:

- Liaison is taking place with partners and other areas to renew their work on skills academies.
- Initial feedback from LEP shows that Inverclyde has good figures in relation to positive destinations but are they the right destinations?
- Update – currently 125 apprenticeships across the Council due to additional monies invested by the Council.
- Expanded offer between Inverclyde Council, Kickstart and the Scottish Government.
- Update – RISE Project - £1 million project for those in recovery from addiction.
- Refresh Scheme.
- Covid Recovery.
- Health & Social Care shortfall – officers will meet with West College Scotland to consider the support available.
- Intelligence Hub – waiting on data in relation to skills supply and future gaps in skills. It was agreed for the Intelligence Hub to present at the

LL

next meeting of the Taskforce.

Councillor Brooks highlighted that there could be an opportunity to fund a bid into the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA). Officers agreed to look at the ARIA and Innovation Fund.

SJ

6. Next Steps

The next steps /actions were agreed as follows:

- An officers group will be established to look at alternative proposals if funding bids are unsuccessful.
- Housing – undertake a deeper dive to understand the Inverclyde housing market.
- SDI – invite a representative to a future meeting.
- Wider survey to the whole business base.
- Ensure business engagement with taskforce through the Economic Group.
- Intelligence Hub – presentation to the next meeting of the Taskforce.
- Consider ARIA bid.

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7. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed for the next meeting to take place in late January – it was noted that the preference is for the meeting to take place on a Monday.

LM

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	16 February 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Report No:	LS/019/23
Contact Officer:	Diane Sweeney	Contact No:	01475 712147
Subject:	Inverclyde Out of Hours Services – Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire		

1.0 PURPOSE AND CONSIDERATIONS

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire, countersigned by Councillor Clocherty, relative to the out of hours GP service provided in Inverclyde.
- 1.3 The terms of the Notice of Motion are set out in appendix 1 to the report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Appendix 1

Inverclyde Out of Hours Services

Council notes that prior to February 2020, Inverclyde was served by a GP Out of Hours Service seven days a week. This service was reduced in February 2020 when the GP Out of Hours service for the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area entered business continuity arrangements.

In March 2020, Councillors McCabe and Moran wrote to the Chair of the Health Board, Professor John Brown, expressing the Council's disappointment at this decision. At the time, the arrangement was intended to be a temporary measure.

Almost three years on, the GP Out of Hours Service remains in business continuity arrangements. In December, the Greenock Telegraph reported that there were no plans to return a full Out of Hours Service to Inverclyde, meaning that many patients would have to travel to Paisley and Glasgow.

Continuing without a full out of hours service in Inverclyde would represent a further downgrading of NHS services in our area and would have a particular effect on the poorest and most vulnerable.

This proposal has created significant concern in the Inverclyde community with over 6000 people signing a petition against changes to out of hours and calling for a full service to be reinstated.

No consultation has been undertaken on plans to permanently reduce the service in Inverclyde. Council believes that any consultation should consider these changes as a major service change, and be open to a full public consultation. Council further believes that for the purposes of consultation, any proposals for change should be measured against the service prior to February 2020 and not after.

Council is asked to express its opposition to Health Board plans not to return a full Out of Hours service to Inverclyde; requests that the Leader of the Council write to the Chair and Chief Executive of the Health Board expressing the Council's opposition and enclosing a copy of this motion; requests that the Leader of the Council writes to Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Community Engagement expressing Council's view that any proposed changes constitute a major service change and should be subject to a full public consultation.

Proposed: Councillor McGuire
Seconded: Councillor Clocherty

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	16 February 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Report No:	LS/021/23
Contact Officer:	Diane Sweeney	Contact No:	01475 712147
Subject:	The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill – Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson		

1.0 PURPOSE AND CONSIDERATIONS

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson, countersigned by Councillor Clocherty, relative to The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill.
- 1.3 The terms of the Notice of Motion are set out in appendix 1 to the report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion by Councillor Jackson.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Appendix 1

Preamble

The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill, should it become law in its current form, will give employers in vital sectors the power to sack frontline staff, giving the UK government legislative authority to deny workers what is universally regarded as a fundamental human right, the right to withdraw their labour.

Employers will have the unilateral right to issue a “work notice” identifying individual workers required to work to maintain minimum service. The Bill provides statutory provision enabling certain employers with the authority of the State to requisition workers. A worker who refuses to comply will lose automatic unfair dismissal protection if they are dismissed.

The UK government is therefore seeking to change the law to authorise certain employers to do what no court in this country can do. Under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, section 236, no court can “compel an employee to do any work or attend at any place for the doing of any work”.

Having notified the union of the identity of the workers to be compelled to work, the Bill would then deny workers their automatic protection from unfair dismissal if the union fails to take reasonable steps to ensure all members identified in the work notice “comply”.

The purpose of this new legislation is to weaken the power of workers and increase the power of employers. In the absence of an effective right to strike, pay and terms and conditions are set by employers without the input of workers.

The UK government are trying to justify the Bill by claiming that minimum service levels are authorised by the International Labour Organisation.

The UK’s international legal obligations include Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights; Article 3 of Convention 87 of the International Labour Organisation; Article 8 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and Article 6(4) of the European Social Charter 1961. The UK government reaffirmed its commitment to several such treaties in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement 2021.

Motion

1. That Inverclyde Council as an employer will, in accordance with the law, continue to respect the human rights of all workers to take strike action and support their right to do so.
2. That Inverclyde Council strongly objects to the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill, which seeks to undermine the rights of workers and trade unions, and agrees that the Chief Executive write to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy calling on them to withdraw the Bill.

Proposed: Councillor Jackson

Seconded: Councillor Clocherty