
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Director Environment & Regeneration	Report No:	IC/03/23/SJ
Contact Officer:	Stuart Jamieson	Contact No:	01475 712709
Subject:	Inverclyde Socio-Economic Taskforce Update		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to highlight to members the activity associated with the Inverclyde Socio-Economic Taskforce since its last update.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to note the activity highlighted in the request to Government in Appendix 1.

Stuart Jamieson
Director Environment & Regeneration

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Inverclyde Socio-Economic Taskforce was set up to identify and address the multiple challenges facing Inverclyde from an economy perspective.
- 3.2 The Taskforce membership is from a wide and varied church of public sector organisations and is complemented by both the local employability partnership and the business support group.
- 3.3 Since its inception the focus of the group has been on four topic areas namely business, business premises, housing and skills.
- 3.4 Following the most recent Taskforce meeting, officers from the Scottish Government requested that Council officers supply them with a potential list of project areas for which funding could be made available from existing budgets. The Joint Chairs wrote to the Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade on 21 August 2023 and the letter to the Minister is attached as Appendix 1. The Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade's response is attached as Appendix 2.
- 3.5 Following the remaining scheduled meetings of the taskforce, its activity will be included in the refreshed Alliance Board Economic Group.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that officers will continue to seek funding opportunities for Inverclyde in line with the identified projects contained in Appendix 1.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

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

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	X	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & 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
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

N/A					
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5.3 Legal/Risk

N/A.

5.4 Human Resources

N/A.

5.5 Strategic

The strategic implications of this report is in line with the Council’s Economic Strategy.

5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(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

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.

(c) 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.

5.7 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.

5.8 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 N/A.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 N/A.

Councillor Stephen McCabe
Ward 1 – Inverclyde East
Municipal Buildings
Greenock
PA15 1LX

Appendix 1

Leader of the Council

Richard Lochhead MSP

Direct Line: 01475 712727
Email: stephen.mccabe@inverclyde.gov.uk
Our Ref: SMcC/lm
Your Ref:
Date: 21st August 2023

Dear Richard,

Further to the Inverclyde Taskforce on 26th June Scottish Government officials have requested that Inverclyde Council to articulate the ask to government. Following extensive research from the Fraser of Allander Institute, the City Region Intelligence Hub and Arneil Johnstone and feedback from local business various investment opportunities are outlined below. The investments will support the socio-economic regeneration of the area.

The potential for this area is significant and with the correct support and investment Inverclyde could deliver meaningful change for the benefit of residents and businesses and align with our shared goals of making Inverclyde an even better place to live, work, do business, and visit.

The projects were developed through the Inverclyde Socio-Economic Taskforce, they are ambitious but very much achievable with the correct support and investment.

Business Premises

Project 1 - Kelburn Industrial Estate is an industrial/commercial development in the east of the Local Authority area which is adjacent to the A8. Originally developed by urban regeneration company Riverside Inverclyde, we are seeking to expand these facilities as the current provision is full. RI can borrow £5 million, however require a further £3 million additional funding to deliver a 55,000^{f2} solution.

Project 2 - Port Glasgow Industrial Estate suffers from legacy buildings from the 1960–70s era. Their redundant nature makes them attractive for anti-social uses. We are seeking to demolish the central core of the area and provide alternative modern purpose facilities to make Port Glasgow an attractive proposition. We are seeking investment to the value of £22 million.

Business

Project 1 - To ensure that the east/west displacement is not further exacerbated. Providing fiscal policy to afford Inverclyde business rate tax reduction in line with the GCR Investment Zone applicable to our industrial estates.

Project 2 - To expedite efficient traffic movement within the Inverclyde area we would seek to support Transport Scotland in the installation of a MOVA type traffic light solution for the main A8 trunk road, the cost of this is estimated at £500,000-£750,000.

Housing

Project 1 - The Council has aspired to address the standard of housing within Clune Park for considerable time. The Council is seeking the allocation of funds to afford a successful development which will include the construction of 80-100 mid-market rent homes. The anticipated cost on top of the acquisition costs is estimated to be £16m.

Project 2 - Port Glasgow Lower Quarter. A potential levelling up partnership approach to regenerate a section of Port Glasgow Town Centre. Following acquisition of redundant premises, the project seeks to regenerate the area through investment in civic, housing and business premises creation - £25 million.

Skills

Project 1 - The economically inactive count for Inverclyde remains stubbornly around 10,500 people. This pilot project would seek to physically engage with this cohort and attempt bring them towards the labour market - £1 million.

Project 2 - In work training to upskill through training options the attributes of the workforce 100 participants £500,000.

We trust that the information provided above proves useful to you and your team and would be happy to discuss these in greater detail should you require. As previously offered we are happy to facilitate a visit to Inverclyde so you can see firsthand the potential of the area and some of the unique challenges. We have copied this letter to your colleagues in the UK Government.

We look forward to hearing from you at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Stephen McCabe
Leader of the Council



Stuart McMillan MSP
Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency

**Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism
and Trade**

Ministear airson Gnìomhachasan Beaga, Ùr-ghnàthachadh,
Turasachd agus Malairt

Richard Lochhead MSP/BPA



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Stephen McCabe and Stuart McMillan

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Our Reference: 202300372874

Your Reference: Inverclyde Taskforce

7 September 2023

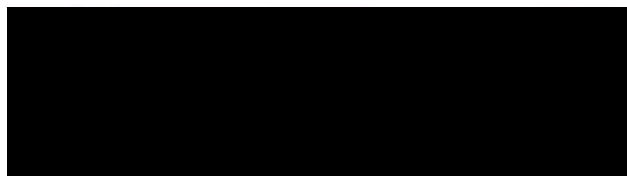
Dear Stephen and Stuart,

Thank you for your letter of 21 August. I found it useful to attend the last Task Force meeting and hear about the work that has been done to identify new opportunities for socio-economic regeneration in Inverclyde. I am glad to see this important dialogue crystallising in suggested actions.

The Scottish Government is committed to working with Inverclyde Council and the other partners to support local economic development. I was pleased to have seen the recent opening of the City Region Deal funded Greenock Ocean Terminal, and look forward to the Clyde Mission funded Platers Shed being tenanted as soon as possible. Both projects are key to job creation.

I will ask Scottish Government officials to discuss the project suggestions in your letter and to liaise with your senior officials. We discussed my visiting Inverclyde at the last Task Force meeting. I would value this, and ask that your officials get in touch with my office to suggest some dates.

Yours sincerely



RICHARD LOCHHEAD

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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