

A meeting of the Inverclyde Council will be held on Thursday 28 September 2023 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 27 September 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, Digital & Customer Services

BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS	
2. Minutes of Meetings of The Inverclyde Council, Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Boards	
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General Purposes Board (14 June 2023)	(pp 199-200)
Appointment Panel - Head of Physical Assets (Shortlisting) (19 June 2023)	(pp 201)
General Purposes Board (Special) (10am) (28 June 2023)	(pp 202)
Environment & Regeneration Committee (Special) (3pm) (28 June 2023)	(pp 203-204)
Appointment Panel - Head of Physical Assets (Interview) (10.45am) (29 June 2023)	(pp 205)
Audit Committee (Accounts) (29 June 2023)	(pp 206-208)
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Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel (29 August 2023)	(pp 221-224)

<p>Environment & Regeneration Committee (31 August 2023) (pp 225-231) Education & Communities Committee (5 September 2023) (pp 232-236) Planning Board (6 September 2023) (pp 237-240) ** Grants Sub-Committee (11 September 2023) ** General Purposes Board (13 September 2023) ** Policy & Resources Committee (19 September 2023) ** Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel (21 September 2023)</p>	
NEW BUSINESS	
<p>3. 2022/23 Annual Audit Report - Meeting Request Report by Chief Financial Officer</p>	p
<p>4. Statutory Review of Polling Scheme Report by Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services</p>	p
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REMITTS FROM COMMITTEES	
<p>7. Annual Report on the Audit Committee – 2022-23 – Remit from the Audit Committee Report by Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services</p>	p
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ROUTINE ITEMS AND DECISIONS FOR NOTING	
<p>9. Inverclyde Socio-Economic Taskforce Update Report by Director Environment & Regeneration</p>	p
MEMBER REQUESTS	
<p>10. Acknowledge the Achievements of Mr John McMaster – Request by Provost McKenzie Report by Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services</p>	p
<p>11. Dementia Friendly & Enabled Communities Project – Request by Provost McKenzie on behalf of Your Voice Report by Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services</p>	p
NOTICE OF MOTIONS	
<p>12. Care Experienced Citizens – Notice of Motion by Councillor Clocherty ** Report by Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services</p>	p
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<p>15. Disposable Vapes – Notice of Motion by Councillor Reynolds Report by Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services</p>	<p>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>	
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>16. 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> <p>You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during any recording or live-streaming will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available via the Council's internet site or YouTube.</p> <p>If you are participating in the meeting, you acknowledge that you may be filmed and that any information pertaining to you contained in the recording or live-stream of the meeting will be used for webcasting or training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public. In making this use of your information the Council is processing data which is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. If you are asked to speak at the meeting then your submission to the committee will be captured as part of the recording or live-stream.</p> <p>If you have any queries regarding this and, in particular, if you believe that use and/or storage of any particular information would cause, or be likely to cause, substantial damage or distress to any individual, please contact the Information Governance team at dataprotection@inverclyde.gov.uk</p>	

Enquiries to – **Colin MacDonald** – Tel 01475 712113

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Chief Financial Officer	Report No:	FIN/62/23/AP
Contact Officer:	Alan Puckrin	Contact No:	01475 712090
Subject:	2022/23 Annual Audit Report - Meeting Request		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Council to agree that a meeting of the Inverclyde Council be called for 16 November 2023 at 4.00pm to consider the 2022/23 Annual Audit Report to Elected members and the Controller of Audit. The Council's external auditors, KPMG will be present at the meeting the present to Annual Audit Report and answer questions from elected members.

1.3 Whilst it is not anticipated that any further change to this date and time will be required, it is recommended that authority is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Provost and Leader of the Council to agree an alternate date and time, in case that should be necessary.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Council agrees that a meeting of the Inverclyde Council for 16 November 2023 at 4.00pm to consider the 2022/23 Annual Audit Report to Elected members and the Controller of Audit, with authority being delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Provost and Leader of the Council to agree an alternate date and time should that be necessary.

Alan Puckrin
Chief Financial Officer

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The agreed External Audit Plan was for the Annual Audit Report incorporating the audited annual accounts for 2022/23 and the wider scope audit report would be presented to the Council on 28 September 2023.
- 3.2 Following discussions with the Council's external auditors it was noted that, whilst it would have been possible to present the accounts for approval on the 28 September, further audit work would have been on going on the accounts after this date. This would have resulted in the accounts being signed and the wider scope audit work being presented to the Council later in October.
- 3.3 Considering this, it was agreed that the best course of action would be to continue previous practice of the annual accounts and wider scope audit report being presented to Council as a single package.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Due to holiday commitments, it is now proposed that a meeting of the Council is called for 16 November at 4.00pm to consider the 2022/23 Annual Audit Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit.
- 4.2 Whilst it is not anticipated that any further change to this date and time will be required, it is recommended that authority is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Provost and Leader of the Council to agree an alternate date and time, in case that should be necessary.

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					

5.3 **Legal/Risk**

The statutory date for the presentation of audited accounts returned to the pre-pandemic date of 30 September for 2023. However, it is expected that under 40% of Councils will achieve this date.

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no issues arising.

5.5 **Strategic**

There are no issues arising.

6.0 **CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Chief Executive and Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services and the Council's External Auditors agree with the proposal in this report.

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Chief Executive	Report No:	LS/095/23
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01475 712710
Subject:	Statutory Review of Polling Scheme		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to (i) advise Members of the need to carry out a statutory review of the Council's Polling Scheme and (ii) to ask Members to approve for consultation the draft Polling Scheme detailed in Appendix 3 and the statutory review timetable as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 In terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended) local authorities are required to divide their area into polling districts, to designate polling places for the purposes of elections and to keep those arrangements under review.
- 1.4 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 further amended the Representation of the People Act 1983 by introducing a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places with compulsory reviews to be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013.
- 1.5 The Council last carried out a statutory review in 2018/19 and a subsequent interim review took place in 2022. In terms of the legislation, it must now carry out the compulsory statutory review between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.
- 1.6 It is, therefore, proposed to carry out the review in line with the timetable set out in Appendix 1 with a view to it being completed and coming into force by May 2024.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council:
- 2.1.1 note the requirements to undertake a Statutory Review of the Polling Scheme between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025;
 - 2.1.2 approve the timetable relating to the Statutory Review of the Polling Scheme, as outlined in Appendix 1 with authority being delegated to the Chief Executive to make such changes to the timetable as they consider necessary;

- 2.1.3 approve for consultation the draft Polling Scheme forming Appendix 3 and authorise the Chief Executive to commence the consultation; and
- 2.1.4 note that a further report will be presented to the Council at its meeting on 25 April 2024, or earlier, once the consultation has ended.

Louise Long
Chief Executive

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 In terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983, local authorities are required to designate polling places for the purposes of elections, to review those arrangements within the statutory review timescale and to keep their arrangements under review.
- 3.2 The Council completed its last statutory review in 2019 and carried out an interim review in 2022. The Council's practice has also been to review polling arrangements as each scheduled election approaches. In conducting its reviews, the Council must seek to ensure that:
 - (i) all electors in the constituency have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in circumstances; and
 - (ii) so far as is reasonably practical, all polling places should be accessible to all voters including those who are disabled and when considering the designation of a polling place the Council must have regard to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- 3.3 The proposed timetable for the review is outlined in Appendix 1 commencing with the publication of the notification of the review and making contact with interested parties, such as Members, Community Councils and organisations representing the disabled.
- 3.4 The Council is committed to ongoing reviews of the Scheme and to exploring suitable options for polling place locations. The Council is committed to minimising any disruption to schools during each election process and this will be looked at continuously.
- 3.5 The Boundary Commission for Scotland began its 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies in Scotland in January 2021 and the Final Recommendations were laid before the UK Parliament on 28 June 2023. The UK Government is required within a four-month period to submit to the Privy Council an Order that gives effect to the recommendations of the four UK Boundary Commissions. That date has not yet been confirmed. Once the Boundary Order has been made, the new boundaries would then take effect at the next General Election if called after the Order is made. Any UK Parliamentary by-elections will continue to use the existing boundaries until the next General Election. The next General Election is scheduled to be held no later than January 2025.
- 3.6 The proposed new Constituency boundary (Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West County Constituency) will include the addition of two significant areas which lie within Renfrewshire Council's Wards 10 and 11. In relation to the Statutory Review of the Polling Scheme, Inverclyde Council will only review the polling districts and polling places which already fall within the Inverclyde area. The polling districts and polling places within Renfrewshire Wards 10 and 11 that fall within the proposed new boundary will be reviewed by Renfrewshire Council as part of their own Statutory Review, and officers are working closely with Renfrewshire Council in connection with that.
- 3.7 The Elections Act 2022 received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022 and introduced a series of changes to how UK elections are administered. Some of these changes, including the requirement to show photographic ID to vote in person, were implemented at the local government elections in England on 4 May 2023. Other measures are due to be implemented in the coming months and will apply at the next General Election. The impact of these changes is being carefully considered by officers, together with the Electoral Registration Officer and their staff, and will form part of the detailed planning for the next General Election, including ensuring there is suitable public awareness of these changes.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 The draft Polling Scheme which forms Appendix 3, and which has followed an officer review of the current Polling Scheme, including site visits, proposes certain amendments to the current Polling Scheme as follows:

- (i) Lyle Kirk Hall, Bentinck Street, Greenock has been the established polling place for voters in Polling District IG20, however the premises are no longer available as a polling place. Taking into consideration the number of voters within the polling district, the requirements of a suitable premises including accessibility, an alternative polling place has been identified within the existing polling district boundary. It is therefore proposed to reallocate voters in Polling District IG20 to Greenock Wanderers RFC, 75 Octavia Terrace, Greenock; and
- (ii) to note a change of polling place name for Polling District IG23 – Coppermine Community Centre (formerly known as Kirn Drive Community Centre), Kirn Drive, Gourrock.

4.2 It is to be noted that, subject to the confirmation of the boundary review as referred to in paragraph 3.5 above, it is expected that once finalised, and following the upcoming consultation, the Polling Scheme for the Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West County Constituency will include polling districts that are within Renfrewshire Council's Wards 10 and 11, as noted above. However, by way of explanation, Appendix 3 does not include those districts, given that the Boundary Order has not yet been made.

4.3 The Council has previously delegated to the Chief Executive the authority to make any such amendments as may from time to time be necessary in the Polling Scheme in order to take account of any building works and/or closures in order to facilitate suitable and feasible polling arrangements.

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

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
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

The Council is required to receive this report in terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended) and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no human resource implications directly arising from this report.

5.5 Strategic

There are no strategic implications arising from this report.

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

Officers have already taken equalities considerations into account in preparing the draft Scheme, and this will be further considered during the consultation process, with a further assessment accompanying the report to Council in April 2024.

(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

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Staff of the Electoral Registration Officer and Renfrewshire Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL
STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING SCHEME
TIMETABLE

The proposed timetable for the Consultation Review is as follows:

1. Publication on Inverclyde Council website, notices in libraries, letters to interested parties, etc	2 October 2023
2. Representations by interested parties to be received no later than	2 December 2023
3. Inverclyde Council to (where necessary) consider a report on the initial proposals to approve the revised Polling Scheme on	15 February 2024
4. Further consultation on the draft Polling Scheme commencing on	19 February 2024
5. Final date for comments on draft Polling Scheme	18 March 2024
6. Final proposals, having regard to any comments/suggestions received to be considered by the Council on	25 April 2024

**INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY
CURRENT POLLING SCHEME**

Polling District	Polling Place
IN01	Bethesda Building, Faith Avenue, Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir PA11 3TF
IN02	St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4AS
IG01	Holy Family Church Hall, Parkhill Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 6BT
IG02	Struthers Memorial Church, Arran Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 6BJ
IG03	Boglestone Community Centre, Dubbs Road, Port Glasgow PA14 5UD
IG04	St Francis Church, Auchenbothie Road, Port Glasgow PA14 6JD
IG05	7½ John Wood Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5HU
IG06	Upper Port Glasgow Social Club, Crosshill Road, Port Glasgow PA14 5UN
IG07	St John's Church Hall, Brown Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5BP
IG08	Port Glasgow Bowling Club, Birkmyre Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 5AR
IG09	Gibshill Community Centre, Smillie Street, Greenock PA15 2NH
IG10	Auchmountain Halls, Burnhead Street, Greenock PA15 3LG
IG11	Craigend Resource Centre, McLeod Street, Greenock PA15 2HD
IG12	Victoria Bowling Club, 2 East Crawford Street, Greenock PA15 2BT
IG13	Whinhill Primary School, Drumfrochar Road, Greenock PA15 4EQ
IG14	Grosvenor Bowling Club, 2 Dempster Street, Greenock PA15 4QE
IG15	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock PA15 1LS
IG16	Salvation Army Centre, Regent Street (enter from Roxburgh Street), Greenock PA15 4NP
IG17	St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Union Street (enter from Jamaica Street), Greenock PA16 8JJ
IG18	Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock PA16 8DD
IG19	Finnart Scout Hall, 159 Finnart Street, Greenock PA16 8HZ
IG20	Lyle Kirk Hall, Bentinck Street, Greenock PA16 7RT
IG21	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club, Cove Road, Gourock PA19 1RS
IG22	Gamble Halls, 44 Shore Street (enter from Davidson Drive), Gourock PA19 1RG
IG23	Kirn Drive Community Centre, Kirn Drive, Gourock PA19 1SS
IG24	Gourock Golf Club, Cowal View, Gourock PA19 1HD
IG25	Gourock Bowling Club, Barrhill Road, Gourock PA19 1JX
IG26	Royal Gourock Yacht Club, Ashton Road, Gourock PA19 1DA
IG27	Upper Larkfield Community Hall, Lothian Road, Greenock PA16 0PG
IG28	Aileymill Nursery School, Norfolk Road, Greenock PA16 0JG
IG29	Branchton Community Centre, Branchton Road, Greenock PA16 0XX
IG30	Inverkip Community Hub, 2 Kip Park, Main Street, Inverkip PA16 0FZ
IG31	Wemyss Bay Community Centre, Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay PA18 6AT
IG32	Mount Kirk, 95 Dempster Street, Greenock PA15 4EB
IG33	Lady Alice Primary School, Inverkip Road, Greenock PA16 9EJ
IG34	Grieve Road Community Centre, Grieve Road, Greenock PA16 7AL
IG35	St Joseph's Primary School, Wren Road, Greenock PA16 7NH
IG36	St Andrews Primary School, Chester Road, Greenock PA19 0TT

**INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY
PROPOSED DRAFT POLLING SCHEME**

Polling District	Polling Place
IN01	Bethesda Building, Faith Avenue, Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir PA11 3TF
IN02	St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4AS
IG01	Holy Family Church Hall, Parkhill Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 6BT
IG02	Struthers Memorial Church, Arran Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 6BJ
IG03	Boglestone Community Centre, Dubbs Road, Port Glasgow PA14 5UD
IG04	St Francis Church, Auchenbothie Road, Port Glasgow PA14 6JD
IG05	7½ John Wood Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5HU
IG06	Upper Port Glasgow Social Club, Crosshill Road, Port Glasgow PA14 5UN
IG07	St John's Church Hall, Brown Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5BP
IG08	Port Glasgow Bowling Club, Birkmyre Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 5AR
IG09	Gibshill Community Centre, Smillie Street, Greenock PA15 2NH
IG10	Auchmountain Halls, Burnhead Street, Greenock PA15 3LG
IG11	Craigend Resource Centre, McLeod Street, Greenock PA15 2HD
IG12	Victoria Bowling Club, 2 East Crawford Street, Greenock PA15 2BT
IG13	Whinhill Primary School, Drumfrochar Road, Greenock PA15 4EQ
IG14	Grosvenor Bowling Club, 2 Dempster Street, Greenock PA15 4QE
IG15	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock PA15 1LS
IG16	Salvation Army Centre, Regent Street (enter from Roxburgh Street), Greenock PA15 4NP
IG17	St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Union Street (enter from Jamaica Street), Greenock PA16 8JJ
IG18	Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock PA16 8DD
IG19	Finnart Scout Hall, 159 Finnart Street, Greenock PA16 8HZ
IG20	Greenock Wanderers RFC, 75 Octavia Terrace, Greenock PA16 7PX
IG21	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club, Cove Road, Gourock PA19 1RS
IG22	Gamble Halls, 44 Shore Street (enter from Davidson Drive), Gourock PA19 1RG
IG23	Coppermine Community Centre, Kirn Drive, Gourock PA19 1SS
IG24	Gourock Golf Club, Cowal View, Gourock PA19 1HD
IG25	Gourock Bowling Club, Barrhill Road, Gourock PA19 1JX
IG26	Royal Gourock Yacht Club, Ashton Road, Gourock PA19 1DA
IG27	Upper Larkfield Community Hall, Lothian Road, Greenock PA16 0PG
IG28	Aileymill Nursery School, Norfolk Road, Greenock PA16 0JG
IG29	Branchton Community Centre, Branchton Road, Greenock PA16 0XX
IG30	Inverkip Community Hub, 2 Kip Park, Main Street, Inverkip PA16 0FZ
IG31	Wemyss Bay Community Centre, Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay PA18 6AT
IG32	Mount Kirk, 95 Dempster Street, Greenock PA15 4EB
IG33	Lady Alice Primary School, Inverkip Road, Greenock PA16 9EJ
IG34	Grieve Road Community Centre, Grieve Road, Greenock PA16 7AL
IG35	St Joseph's Primary School, Wren Road, Greenock PA16 7NH
IG36	St Andrews Primary School, Chester Road, Greenock PA19 0TT

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	Report No:	LS/091/23
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01745 271 271
Subject:	Alternative Location for Gourock Flag Pole		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to fulfil an outstanding remit, namely that, further to the meeting of the Council on 22 September 2022, officers were to consult with the Ward 5 Elected Members and Community Council and report back to a future meeting of the Council regarding a possible alternative location for the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole.

1.3 Following the above-mentioned consultation, and given that health and safety considerations mean the current flag pole is no longer suitable for use, it is proposed by officers that an alternative new flag pole should be installed on the Gamble Halls. Once the new flag pole is erected, then this would be used by the Council for the flying of flags in Gourock going forward, instead of the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole, which will no longer be used

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Council agrees that the Gamble Halls is to be the new location for the flying of flags by the Council in Gourock.

2.2 It is recommended that the Council notes that officers will take forward the installation of the new flag pole, and once the new flag pole is erected this would be used by the Council for the flying of flags in Gourock going forward, instead of the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 Inverclyde Council recognises a number of events and anniversaries by the flying of certain flags on certain days. At its meeting on 22 September 2022, the Council considered and approved a report on a proposed Flag Flying Protocol. A link to that report is provided here: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2490>
- 3.2 As part of that report, the Council was advised that, given a recent health and safety inspection, an alternative location should be explored for the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole. As such, Council agreed that officers would consult with Ward 5 Elected Members and the Community Council and report back to a future meeting of the Council regarding a possible alternative location for the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Further to the meeting of the Council in September 2022, officers sought feedback from the Ward 5 Elected Members and Gourock Community Council. Having done so, it is felt that the most suitable option is the Gamble Halls. This option is supported by all Ward 5 Elected Members.
- 4.2 To use the Gamble Halls a new flag pole would need to be erected, and Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent were secured for this earlier this year (references 22/0277/IC and 22/0014/LB), it being anticipated that this would likely be the most suitable option. It has been estimated that the cost for the supply and installation of a new 6m flag pole would be in the region of £5,000.
- 4.3 The proposed location of the flagpole is above the upper central window on the front elevation of the building. Internal access into the Caledonia Suite would be required to change the flag, and informal discussions with Inverclyde Leisure have indicated that their staff would likely be able to carry out flag duties on the Council's behalf, subject to suitable advance notice being given. If Inverclyde Leisure were not able to support this, for whatever reason, then the Campus Officers/BSU could undertake these duties.
- 4.4 The Gourock Community Council have also been consulted and are in agreement, having confirmed that at their meeting on 18 September 2023, there was unanimous support for the installation of the flag pole on the Gamble Halls.
- 4.5 Subject to the decision of the Council, officers will take forward the installation of this new flag pole, and once the new flag pole is erected, then this would be used by the Council for the flying of flags in Gourock going forward, instead of the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole.
- 4.6 As noted above, there are costs and officer time associated with purchasing and erecting a new flag pole. The Head of Physical Assets has confirmed the installation cost would be met from their health and safety budget (part of GRWA), given the reason why a new flag pole is needed.

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
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

5.2 Finance

None, other than the officer resources involved in flying flags from different Council buildings. However, to date, all this has been contained within existing budgets. Currently, this includes the cost of BSU raising and lowering flags at Gourrock Municipal Buildings, the cost of which is approximately £150 for each flag. However, going forward, on the assumption that the Gamble Halls is the agreed alternative, then BSU would likely no longer be required to undertake this task, and it would be dealt with by Inverclyde Leisure/Campus Officers.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Property	Health & Safety Budget	2023/24	£5,000		This cost is only estimated

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, other than potential health and safety considerations around the continued use of the Gourrock Municipal Buildings flag pole.

5.4 Human Resources

None, other than the officer resources involved in flying flags from different Council buildings, and the above-mentioned health and safety considerations.

5.5 Strategic

There are no strategic implications arising from this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Corporate Management Team, the Ward 5 Elected Members and the Gourrock Community Council have been consulted on the proposals in this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	Report No:	LS/096/23/IS
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01475 712113
Subject:	George Wyllie Foundation – Elected Member Representation		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of Councillor McGuire's resignation from their position as a trustee of the George Wyllie Foundation and to seek agreement that the Council does not nominate a replacement trustee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Council notes Councillor McGuire's resignation as a trustee of the George Wyllie Foundation.

2.2 It is recommended that the Council agrees that no Elected Member should be nominated to replace Councillor McGuire as a trustee of the George Wyllie Foundation.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic,
Digital & Customer Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The George Wyllie Foundation (GWF), exists to protect and promote the works of local artist George Wyllie. The GWF has worked closely with the Council on the development of Greenock Ocean Terminal which includes a permanent gallery to display George Wyllie works.
- 3.2 The GWF previously requested that an Elected Member join it as a trustee with Councillor McGuire nominated to fill this role at the meeting of the Council which was held on 20 February 2020. Following the 2022 Local Government elections, Councillor McGuire's position as trustee was confirmed at the statutory meeting of Inverclyde Council on 19 May 2022.
- 3.3 On 18 September 2023, Councillor McGuire intimated her resignation as a trustee of the GWF.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Council has, through Councillor McGuire, had an Elected Member representative on the board of GWF since 2020, However, there is no requirement for there to be such representation. In addition, it is to be noted that since the completion and opening of the Greenock Ocean Terminal, GWF is now a tenant of the Council. Given this, and noting the legal duties associated with such external appointments, it is recommended that the Council agrees that no Elected Member should be nominated to replace Councillor McGuire as a trustee of GWF.
- 4.2 The GWF have been made aware of the proposal that there is no replacement Elected Member appointment, and are content with this. However, the GWF have asked if the Council would wish to remain involved attending the Board as an observer, or receiving Board papers, if the Council felt this appropriate. Officers do not believe this is necessary, and will remain engaged with the GWF through established working arrangements.

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					

5.3 Legal/Risk

No Elected Member is obliged to accept an external appointment. However, if they do then they may find themselves taking on additional legal duties where they will, in essence, be obliged to act in the best interests of that organisation. The exact nature of these legal duties will depend upon the organisation in question and the role appointed to. There is also the potential for conflicts of interest between such a role and their role as an Elected Member. Elected Members have been given training on the appointment to outside bodies, and the associated legal duties of directors and trustees. Elected Members are also directed to the Standards Commission Guidance Note 'Advice for Councillors on Arm's Length External Organisations': <https://www.standardscommissionscotland.org.uk/uploads/files/1638361910211201AdviceNoteCouncillorsALEOsv1.pdf>

5.4 Human Resources

None.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The GWF have been consulted on the proposals in this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	Report No:	LS/085/23
Contact Officer:	Diane Sweeney	Contact No:	01475 712147
Subject:	Annual Report on the Audit Committee – 2022-23 – Remit from the Audit Committee		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to request that the Council consider a remit from the Audit Committee

1.3 The Audit Committee at its meeting on 29 June 2023 considered a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) requesting that Members review and approve the Annual Report on the Audit Committee for 2022-23, and (2) requesting that the report be remitted to the Inverclyde Council in line with best practice. A copy of the report to the Audit Committee is attached as appendix 1.

1.4 The Audit Committee decided the following:

- (1) that the Annual Report on the Audit Committee 2022-23 be approved; and
- (2) that it be agreed to present the report to a future meeting of the Inverclyde Council in line with best practice.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Council is asked to approve the Annual Report on the Audit Committee 2022-23

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

Report To: Audit Committee **Date:** 29 June 2023
Report By: Head of Legal, Democratic,
Digital & Customer Services **Report No:** AC/16/23/IS/APr
Contact Officer: Andi Priestman **Contact No:** 01475 712251
Subject: ANNUAL REPORT ON THE AUDIT COMMITTEE – 2022-23

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide members with the Annual Report on the Audit Committee for 2022/23.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- Review and approve the Annual Report on the Audit Committee for 2022/23.
- Agree that the report should be presented to a future meeting of the Council in line with best practice guidance.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 It is important that the Committee complies with best practice guidance on Audit Committees to ensure it can demonstrate its effectiveness as a foundation for sound corporate governance for the Council.
- 3.2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issued an updated guidance note Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2022 Edition which incorporates CIPFA's Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police. This sets out CIPFA's view of the role and functions of an Audit Committee. The CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance includes the production of an annual report on the performance of the Audit Committee against its remit for submission to the Council.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Annual Report on the Audit Committee for 2022/2023 is attached as an Appendix to this report for consideration by Members.
- 4.2 Members are asked to review and approve the Annual Report on the Audit Committee for 2022-2023 and agree that the report should be presented to a future meeting of the Council in line with best practice guidance.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation is 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 Legal/Risk

There is a risk that the Audit Committee does not comply with best practice guidance in relation to demonstrating its effectiveness in providing a foundation for sound corporate governance. The annual report provides this assurance to the Council on the activity of the Committee.

5.3 Human Resources

There are no human resources implications directly arising from this report.

5.4 Strategic

This report helps ensure strong governance, and its findings will help support delivery of the Council Plan adopted by Inverclyde Council on 20 April 2023, and in particular outcome theme 3: Performance, with the Council seeking to provide high quality and innovative services that deliver value for money.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 Not applicable. This report summarises the work carried out by the Audit Committee during 2022-2023.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 CIPFA Guidance on Audit Committees for Local Authorities – October 2022.

Inverclyde Council
Audit Committee
2022/23 Annual Report

Introduction

This annual report has been prepared to inform Inverclyde Council of the work carried out by the Council's Audit Committee during the financial year 2022/23.

Meetings

The Audit Committee met 6 times during 2022/23 comprising meetings on 7 June, 28 June, 18 October 2022, 10 January, 21 February and 25 April 2023 to consider reports relevant to the Audit cycle and other matters as deemed appropriate. Pre-Agenda meetings were also held ahead of Committee meeting involving the Convenor, Vice-Convenor and appropriate officers.

All meetings were held using the Council's hybrid meeting platform to allow remote and physical participation. Meetings have been live-streamed and made available publicly on the Council's live streaming website.

Purpose and Remit

The purpose and remit of Audit Committee is detailed in the Council's Scheme of Administration. The core functions of the Audit Committee are to:

- Consider the Council's arrangements relating to the Accounts;
- Consider the Council's arrangements relating to external audit requirements;
- Review the adequacy of policies and practices to ensure compliance with statutory and other guidance;
- Review the adequacy of the Council's governance, risk management and internal control arrangements.
- Consider the Council's arrangements relating to internal audit requirements.

To fulfil this remit, the Audit Committee sought assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's systems of governance, risk management and internal control to ensure efficient operations and the highest standards of probity and accountability. This was achieved through reports received from Internal Audit, other Council functions and External Audit with focus in particular on internal control and governance.

At each meeting of the Audit Committee it considered significant findings from Internal Audit reports together with monitoring the progress made by management in completing agreed actions to improve the Council's control environment. It also considered the status of external audit action plans arising from external audit reports received and the indicative external audit annual plan for 2022/23 from the newly appointed external auditors in April 2023.

The Audit Committee also received reports on:

- Risk Management.
- National Fraud Initiative.
- CIPFA Guidance for Audit Committees.
- The Internal Audit Charter.
- The Criminal Finance Act 2017 Policy.

Membership of the Audit Committee

In accordance with Inverclyde Council's Standing Orders membership of the Audit Committee comprises 11 Elected Members. The quorum of the Audit Committee is 6 Elected Members. In June 2022, the Council appointed the following members to Audit Committee:

Cllr Crowther	Cllr Curley
Cllr McCabe	Cllr McClusky
Cllr McCormick	Cllr McGuire
Provost McKenzie	Cllr McVey
Cllr Nelson (Convenor)	Cllr Reynolds
Cllr Wilson (Vice-Convenor)	

Every meeting of the Audit Committee during 2022/23 was quorate.

Attendance by Officers

All meetings were attended by the Chief Financial Officer, Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services and the Chief Internal Auditor.

Other senior officers also attended meetings as appropriate for items on the Agenda for which their presence was relevant. Representatives from the Council's external auditors - Audit Scotland - were present at June and October 2022 meetings and the newly appointed external auditors from KPMG were present at the meeting in April 2023.

Audit Committee Activity

The committee received and considered reports from the Chief Internal Auditor in relation to:

- The internal audit annual report and opinion on the Council's internal control environment.
- Information on the performance and effectiveness of the Internal Audit Team.
- The Internal Audit Team's progress in delivering the planned work and summaries of reports issued and updates on the National Fraud Initiative.

This enabled the Committee to oversee the work of Internal Audit and Corporate Fraud in relation to the provision of assurance on the Council's framework of arrangements for risk management, corporate governance and internal control and in terms of corporate counter-fraud arrangements.

Compliance with Best Practice

During 2022/23 the Audit Committee undertook a self-assessment of the committee's compliance with current best practice. This assessment was against a checklist from the CIPFA guidance "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2022 Edition." In response to this assessment the committee identified some areas for improvement which are being progressed.

Assurance Statement to the Council

The Audit Committee provides the following assurance to the Council:

- The Council has received the Minutes of the Audit Committee meetings throughout the year.
- The Audit Committee has operated in accordance with its agreed terms of reference, and accordingly with the audit committee principles in the CIPFA Position Statement relating to its Audit functions.
- It did this through reports received from Internal Audit, External Audit, and assurances from Management. It focussed on matters of governance, risk management and internal control; giving advice to the Council on the value of the audit process; on the integrity of financial reporting; and on governance arrangements.
- For all audit reports, the Audit Committee considered whether it was satisfied that an adequate management response was in place to ensure action would be taken to manage risk and address concerns on governance, risk management and internal control arrangements. The Audit Committee acknowledges that there is a system in place of ongoing follow-up by Internal Audit and reporting to senior management and the Audit Committee.
- The Audit Committee reviewed the draft audited Annual Accounts for 2021/22.

Conclusion

Based on the reports received and reviewed by the Audit Committee, members are in agreement with the Chief Internal Auditor's annual report and assurance statement which confirmed an overall audit opinion of **Satisfactory** such that that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control system in 2022/23 and are satisfied that active monitoring and follow up of agreed action plans is in place.

6 June 2023

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	Report No:	LS/088/23
Contact Officer:	Colin MacDonald	Contact No:	01475 712113
Subject:	Treasury Management – Annual Report 2022/23 – Remit from the 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 that the Council consider a remit from the Policy & Resources Committee

1.3 The Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 15 August 2023 considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) advising of the operation of the treasury function and its activities for 2022/23 as required under the terms of the Treasury Management Practice 6 (TMP6) on “Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements”, and (2) requesting that the report be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval. A copy of the report to the Policy & Resources Committee is attached as appendix 1.

1.4 The Policy & Resources Committee decided the following:

- (1) that the contents of the annual report on Treasury Management for 2022/23 and the ongoing work to seek to ensure the delivery of financial benefits for the Council during the current period of uncertainty and beyond be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed to remit the report to the Inverclyde Council for approval.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Council is asked to approve the operation of the treasury function and its activities for 2022/23 as required under the terms of the Treasury Management Practice 6 (TMP6) on ‘Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements’.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

Appendix 1



AGENDA ITEM NO: 4

Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	15 August 2023
Report By:	Chief Financial Officer	Report No:	FIN/44/23/AP/KJ
Contact Officer:	Alan Puckrin	Contact No:	01475 712223
Subject:	Treasury Management – Annual Report 2022/23		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is:
- To advise the Committee of the operation of the treasury function and its activities for 2022/23 as required under the terms of Treasury Management Practice 6 (“TMP6”) on “Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements”.
 - To request that the Committee remits the report to the Full Council for their approval.
- 1.3 As at 31 March 2023 the Council had gross external debt (including PPP) of £239,408,384 and investments of £26,127,010. This compares to gross external debt (including PPP) of £246,163,995 and investments of £34,338,655 at 31 March 2022.
- 1.4 The Council operated within the required treasury limits and Prudential Indicators for the year set out in the Council’s Treasury Policy Statement, annual Treasury Strategy Statement, and the Treasury Management Practices.
- 1.5 At its meeting on 16 February 2023 the Policy & Resources Committee agreed to a change in the accounting treatment of the Council’s Service Concession (PPP) contract from 2023/24. This generated a one-off increase in reserves of £14.748m on 1 April 2023 by extending the period over which PPP debt will be charged to the Revenue budget. Decisions on the use of the increase in reserves (which will be funded from further borrowing) were taken by the Council on 2 March 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the annual report on Treasury Management for 2022/23 and the ongoing work to seek to ensure the delivery of financial benefits for the Council during the current uncertainty and beyond.
- 2.2 It is requested that the Committee remits the report to the Full Council for approval.

Alan Puckrin
Chief Financial Officer

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2022/23.
- 3.2 Treasury Management in this context is defined as: “The management of the local authority’s cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”
- 3.3 This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code). Paragraphs 3.16 to 3.18 of the report include information on Loan Fund Advances required by regulations that came into effect on 1 April 2016.
- 3.4 The treasury management issues arising during the year were:
- a. The Council’s debt (including PPP) reduced during the year by £6.756m whilst Council investments reduced by £8.212m. The reduction in debt was due largely to repaying £7m of PWLB debt (and receiving a £62,205 discount), repaying £7.5m of maturing PWLB debt, and subsequently borrowing £5m from the PWLB and £5m of temporary borrowing.
 - b. The Council remained within its Prudential Indicator and Treasury Management limits during 2022/23.
 - c. As at 31 March 2023 the Council had under borrowed against its capital financing requirement by £44.369m. This under borrowing is £5.353m higher than at the end of 2021/22.
 - d. In February 2022 the Treasury Consultants forecast that the Bank Rate would increase from 0.50% to 0.75% in March 2022 then to 1.00% in May 2022 and to 1.25% in November 2022 and stay at that rate until March 2025. Inflation concerns during 2022/23 saw rates rise in March 2022 as forecast and at each meeting of the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee in 2022/23 to end the year at 4.25% (with further increases to 4.50% in May and 5.00% in June 2023 and with increases to 5.50% currently forecast by the Treasury Consultants).
 - e. PWLB rates for new borrowing were expected to increase by up to 0.20% during the year to 2.30% for 5 years, 2.40% for 10 years, 2.60% for 25 years and 2.40% for 50 years. Inflation concerns through the year meant that rates ended the year at around 2% higher than forecast. In addition, there was volatility during the year and PWLB rate spikes in September and October 2022 that resulted in spreads in rates for new loans of over 3% between their lowest and highest levels e.g. 25-year loans were 2.52% on 4 April but 5.88% on 12 October and ended the year at 4.70%.
 - f. Rates for investments increased due to increases in the Bank Rate.
 - g. The Council’s investments earned a rate of return of 2.044% during the year and outperformed the benchmark return of 1.842% resulting in additional income to the Council of £81,900.
 - h. All investments were in accordance with the Council’s investment policy and no institutions with which investments were made had any difficulty in repaying those investments and interest in full during the year.
 - i. The Council’s investment performance is due to undertaking fixed term investments at interest rates that were above the benchmark with counterparties which have high creditworthiness (the Bank of Scotland and NatWest Bank PLC) and in accordance with the Council’s investment strategy.
- 3.5 The main economic uncertainty in the UK and around the world during the year came from inflation concerns, the continuing impact of the conflict in Ukraine, and the likely level of interest rates and impact of those rates on the economy.

The economic situation continues to be closely monitored with inflation and interest rates projected to be well above levels previously experienced in the short/medium term.

3.6 The Council's Year End debt position was as follows:

	At 31 March 2022	At 31 March 2023
	£	£
Total Excluding PPP	188,748,995	184,132,384
PPP Debt	57,415,000	55,276,000
Total Including PPP	246,163,995	239,408,384

Further detail is given in the following table:

	At 31 March 2022		At 31 March 2023		Movement 2022/23
	Principal	Rate	Principal	Rate	Principal
	£000		£000		£000
Fixed Rate Funding:					
- PWLB	89,029		79,414		(9,615)
- Market *	71,000		40,000		(31,000)
- Temporary	0		5,000		5,000
	160,029	3.84%	124,414	3.67%	(35,615)
Variable Rate Funding:					
- PWLB	0		0		0
- Market *	28,400		59,400		31,000
- Temporary #	320		318		(2)
	28,720	4.87%	59,718	4.90%	30,998
Total Debt (Excl PPP)	188,749	4.00%	184,132	4.07%	(4,617)
PPP Debt	57,415		55,276		(2,139)
Total Debt (Incl PPP)	246,164		239,408		(6,756)

* - Market Loans are shown as variable when they have less than 1 year to go until their next call date. The total value of Market Loans has not changed between financial years, just the split between fixed and variable.

- Temporary Loans include funds held by the Council on behalf of the Common Good and Trust Funds and that are to be treated as borrowing for Treasury Management purposes under Scottish Government requirements.

3.7 The Council's cash balances investment position was as follows:

	At 31 March 2022		At 31 March 2023		Movement 2022/23
	Principal	Return	Principal	Return	Principal
	£000		£000		£000
Investments:					
- Fixed Term Deposits	0	0.00%	22,000	3.21%	22,000
- Notice Accounts	14,594	0.55%	50	3.74%	(14,544)
- Deposit Accounts	19,745	0.66%	4,077	4.15%	(15,668)
Totals	34,339	0.61%	26,127	3.36%	(8,212)

Investments as at 31 March 2023: £26,127,010
 Maximum level of investments in 2022/23: £59,173,693 on 15 August 2022
 Minimum level of investments in 2022/23: £22,683,510 on 20 March 2023
 Daily average for the year 2022/23: £40,569,461

The Council's forecast and actual Investment Balances for 2022/23 for "investments" as defined in the Investment Regulations (including loans/holdings not managed under the treasury function) are shown in Appendix 1.

3.8 2022/23 Outturn Compared to Estimates in 2022/23 Strategy

The 2022/23 outturn compared to the estimates in the 2022/23 strategy:

	2022/23 Estimate	2022/23 Outturn
<u>Borrowing Requirement</u>	£000	£000
New borrowing (See Note below)	7,400	5,000
Alternative financing requirements	0	0
Replacement borrowing (See Note below)	7,600	5,000
TOTAL	15,000	10,000
<u>Prudential/Treasury Management Indicators</u>	£000	£000
Gross external debt including PPP (As at 31 March 2023)	251,581	239,408
Capital financing requirement (CFR) (As at 31 March 2023)	283,887	283,777
(Under)/over borrowing against CFR	(32,306)	(44,369)
	£000	£000
Gross capital expenditure	18,892	26,564
Ratio of financing costs (including PPP) to net revenue stream	10.49%	9.65%
Ratio of net debt (debt and PPP less investments) to net revenue stream	100.5%	94.9%

Note:

- a. The £5 million new borrowing was temporary borrowing from another Council as at 31 March 2023 (with the borrowing starting in March 2023). The Council also undertook 3 other temporary loans from Councils totalling £7.5 million for periods between February and March 2023, all of which were repaid before 31 March 2023.
- b. The £5m replacement borrowing was from the PWLB in March 2023 and was to partially fund £7m repaid in October 2022 (2 loans, one for £5m and one for £2m, the repayments for which resulted in a £62,205 discount) and £7.5m that matured in January 2023.

3.9 The table in paragraph 3.8 above shows that as at 31 March 2023 the Council had under borrowed against its capital financing requirement by £44.369m. Under borrowing means that the Council is using cash it already has (e.g. in earmarked reserves and other balances) to cash flow capital expenditure and maturing debt rather than bringing in new funds from borrowing. The level of under borrowing is kept under review in light of Council capital financing and other funding requirements.

3.10 2022/23 Outturn Compared to Limits in 2022/23 Strategy

The 2022/23 outturn compared to limits in the 2022/23 strategy:

Prudential/Treasury Management Indicators

Authorised limit for external debt

- Borrowing
- Other long-term liabilities

Operational boundary for external debt

- Borrowing
- Other long-term liabilities

Upper limit on sums invested for periods longer than 365 days (Actual is maximum in period)

Limits on fixed and variable rate borrowing maturing in each period at 31 March 2023 (LOBOs included based on call dates and not maturity dates)

- Under 12 months
- 12 months and within 24 months
- 24 months and within 5 years
- 5 years and within 10 years
- 10 years and within 30 years
- 30 years and within 50 years
- 50 years and within 70 years

Council Policy Limits

Maximum Percentage of Debt Repayable In Any Year (Actual is as at 31 March 2023 and relates to Financial Year 2077/78)

Maximum Proportion of Debt At Variable Rates (Actual is as at 31 March 2023)

Maximum Percentage of Debt Restructured In Year (Actual is as at 31 March 2023)

2022/23 Limits		2022/23 Outturn	
£000		£000	
230,000		184,132	
58,000		55,276	
288,000		239,408	
£000		£000	
212,000		184,132	
58,000		55,276	
270,000		239,408	
£000		£000	
10,000		0	
Fixed	Var.	Fixed	Var.
45%	35%	9.5%	32.4%
45%	35%	0.0%	0%
45%	35%	0.7%	0%
45%	35%	10.9%	0%
45%	35%	4.1%	0%
45%	35%	20.7%	0%
45%	35%	21.7%	0%
25%		21.7%	
45%		32.4%	
30%		3.7%	

3.11 The Prudential Code requires that the Council states how interest rate exposure is managed and monitored.

The position in 2022/23 was that all of the Council's PWLB debt was at fixed rates. The Market debt contained some debt at fixed rates, some small elements at variable rates and some where the rates could change (but none did), and the temporary borrowing from other Councils was at fixed rates. The Council's investments, which were all for less than 1 year, were all variable or regarded as variable under the treasury management rules.

During 2022/23, these interest rate exposures were managed and monitored by the Council through management reports on treasury management that were received and reviewed by the Chief Financial Officer.

3.12 The forecast from the Treasury Consultants in the Strategy for the Bank Rate as at 31 March and the latest forecast (produced on 27 June 2023) are:

	Forecast Per 2022/23 Strategy	Actual/ Latest Forecast
2022/23	0.75%	4.25% (Actual)
2023/24	1.25%	5.50% (Forecast)
2024/25	1.25%	3.75% (Forecast)
2025/26	---	2.50% (Forecast)

3.13 The Council's Loans Fund Pool Rate for Interest is used to allocate interest charges to the General Fund and reflects the actual cost of the Council's Treasury activities. The rates for the last 5 years (excluding expenses) are as follows:

Year	Loans Fund Pool Rate
2018/19	3.608%
2019/20	3.436%
2020/21	3.362%
2021/22	3.363%
2022/23	3.776%

The Loans Fund pool rate includes an interest charge for using existing Council funds instead of borrowing, with that interest being paid to the Revenue budget as income. This is called Internal Resources Interest (IRI). The increase in the Bank Rate during the year has meant an increase in short-term borrowing rates on which the interest charge is based and resulted in the increase in Loans Fund pool rate between 2021/22 and 2022/23 but also increased IRI for the General Fund.

3.14 The Council's investment policy for the year is governed by Scottish Government Investment Regulations and was implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 21 April 2022 (after review by the Policy & Resources Committee on 22 March 2022). The policy sets out the approach for choosing investment categories and counterparties, and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies supplemented by additional market data such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.

All investments in 2022/23 and 2023/24 to date were in accordance with the policy and no institutions with which investments were made had any difficulty in repaying investments and interest in full.

3.15 The result of the investment strategy undertaken by the Council in 2022/23 is as follows:

Average Investment	Rate of Return (gross of fees)	Benchmark Return (3-month SONIA compounded)
£40,569,461	2.044%	1.842%

The Council has outperformed the benchmark by 0.202% resulting in additional income to the Council of £82,000.

- 3.16 Where capital expenditure is funded by borrowing (referred to as loans fund advances), the debt financing costs are paid from the Revenue Budget as loan charges comprised of the repayments of debt along with interest and expenses costs on the borrowing.

The Council is required to set out its policy for the repayment of loans fund advances.

- a. For loans fund advances made before 1 April 2016 the policy will be to maintain the practice of previous years and use the Statutory Method (option 1) with annual principal repayments being calculated using the annuity method.
- b. The same method was used for loans fund advances made after 1 April 2016 for the permitted 5-year transitional period to the end of 2020/21. In applying the annuity method to new advances in any year, the interest rate used in the annuity calculation is the Council's loans fund pool rate for the year (including expenses) as rounded up to the nearest 0.01%.
- c. Of the options available for new capital expenditure from 1 April 2021 onwards, it was approved by the Full Council on 22 April 2021 to maintain the use of the annuity method as set out in option b. above.

- 3.17 The outstanding loans fund advances (representing capital expenditure still to be repaid from the Revenue Budget) are:

	2022/23
	Actual
	£000
Balance As At 1 April	227,029
Add: Advances For The Year	9,397
Less: Repayments For The Year	8,184
Balance As At 31 March	228,242

- 3.18 For the loans fund advances outstanding as at 31 March 2023, the liability to make future repayments (excluding debt interest and expenses) is as follows:

	£000
Year 1	8,102
Years 2-5	33,818
Years 6-10	42,959
Years 11-15	40,089
Years 16-20	36,275
Years 21-25	34,191
Years 26-30	18,947
Years 31-35	7,662
Years 36-40	2,333
Years 41-45	1,110
Years 46-50	1,137
Years 51-55	820
Years 56-60	115
Years 61-65	48
Years 66-70	58
Years 71-75	69
Years 76-80	83
Years 81-85	99
Years 86-90	118
Years 91-95	141
Years 96-100	68
TOTAL	228,242

3.19 Service Concession (PPP) Contract

At its meeting on 16 February 2023 the Policy & Resources Committee agreed to a change in the accounting treatment of the Council’s Service Concession (PPP) contract from 2023/24. This generated a one-off increase in reserves of £14.748m on 1 April 2023 by extending the period over which PPP debt will be charged to the Revenue budget. Decisions on the use of the increase in reserves (which will be funded from further borrowing) were taken by the Council on 2 March 2023.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 It is proposed that the Committee consider the contents of Section 3 of the report, seek any assurances from Officers, and thereafter remit the Annual Report to the Council for approval.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1	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

Treasury activity represents a significant aspect of the Revenue Budget and over 2022/23 both borrowing costs and investment income varied considerably from that included in the approved Strategy.

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					

5.3 Legal/Risk

The Council has complied with all treasury management statutory requirements over 2022/23. Treasury risks are identified in the Treasury Strategy and officers are supported in this regard by the Council's treasury consultants.

5.4 Human Resources

None.

5.5 Strategic

None

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 This report includes the latest advice from the Council's treasury consultants (Link Treasury Services Limited).

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 CIPFA - Treasury Management in the Public Services – Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes – 2021 Edition
Inverclyde Council – Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2022/23-2025/26.

**FORECAST OF INVESTMENT BALANCES
ESTIMATE FOR 2022/23 AND ACTUAL AT 31 MARCH 2023**

Investment Regulation 31 requires the Council to provide forecasts for the level of investments. The estimate for 2022/23 and the actual as at 31 March 2023 are:

	2022/23 Estimate	2022/23 Actual At 31 March 2023
	£000	£000
Cash balances managed in-house		
- At 1 April 2022	35,000	34,339
- At 31 March 2023	32,151	26,127
- Change in year	(2,849)	(8,212)
- Average daily cash balances	33,576	40,569
Holdings of shares, bonds, units (includes local authority owned company)		
- At 1 April 2022	2	2
- Purchases	0	0
- Sales	0	0
- At 31 March 2023	2	2
Loans to local authority company or other entity to deliver services		
- At 1 April 2022	354	308
- Advances	235	0
- Repayments	58	56
- At 31 March 2023	531	252
Loans made to third parties		
- At 1 April 2022	113	120
- Advances	0	10
- Repayments	24	22
- At 31 March 2023	89	108
Total of all investments		
- At 1 April 2022	35,469	34,769
- At 31 March 2023	32,773	26,489
- Change in year	(2,696)	(8,280)

The movements in the forecast investment balances shown above are due largely to ongoing treasury management activity in accordance with the Council's treasury management strategy or, for loans made to third parties, in accordance with Council decisions made in respect of such loans.

All of the Council's cash balances are managed in-house with no funds managed by external fund managers.

The "holdings of shares, bonds, units (includes authority owned company)" are historic and relate to the Common Good.

The Loans made to third parties includes a £50,000 loan to Shared Interest Society Limited ("Shared Interest") as approved by the Policy & Resources Committee in August 2017, Shared Interest being a company that uses funds invested by individuals and organisations to allow it to provide loans to fair trade businesses around the world.

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
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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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E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Stephen McCabe and Stuart McMillan

Jackie.McLaren@inverclyde.gov.uk

Our Reference: 202300372874

Your Reference: Inverclyde Taskforce

7 September 2023

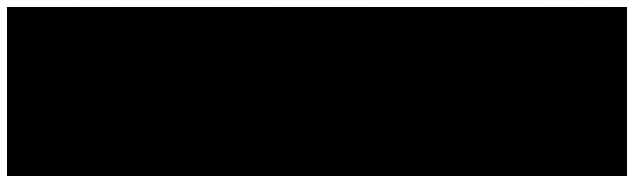
Dear Stephen and Stuart,

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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3DG
www.gov.scot



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Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services	Report No:	LS/089/23
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01475 712147
Subject:	Acknowledge the Achievements of Mr John McMaster – Request by Provost McKenzie		

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 a request received from Provost McKenzie requesting that the Council acknowledges the achievements of Mr John McMaster.

1.2 The terms of Provost McKenzie's request are set out below.

That Inverclyde Council acknowledges the achievements of Mr John McMaster in his long and illustrious football career, this being the fortieth anniversary year of Aberdeen beating Real Madrid in the European Cup Winners Cup final. That it also acknowledges his service to Greenock Morton Football Club and commends him in the honours that he has brought and in his continual promotion of Inverclyde.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Council considers the request by Provost McKenzie.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services	Report No:	LS/094/23
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01475 712147
Subject:	Dementia Friendly & Enabled Communities Project – Request by Provost McKenzie on behalf of Your Voice		

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 a request received from Provost McKenzie on behalf of Your Voice, that the Council consider supporting the Dementia Friendly & Enabled Communities project.

1.3 The terms of Provost McKenzie's request are set out below

“Funded by Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership and delivered by Your Voice, the Dementia Friendly & Enabled Communities project began in November 2021. Through the delivery of this initiative, Your Voice are working to empower the development of Inverclyde as a community where people impacted by dementia are supported, respected and empowered to remain active. Your Voice has over 30 local assets already signed up to the initiative, and having support from the Council will help to emphasise the important message that Inverclyde Cares; demonstrating the community-wide commitment to work towards a Dementia Friendly Inverclyde.

People impacted by dementia have shared with Your Voice the importance of being surrounded by a community that is aware and understanding, and the positive impact that this can have on their daily lives. Ultimately, a community that is aware is a community that is empowered to challenge stigma by turning understanding into action and social change.

The Council is asked to declare its support for this project, and to encourage more citizens, community groups and organisations across Inverclyde to become involved and support this important initiative.”

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Council considers the request by Provost McKenzie on behalf of Your Voice.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	Report No:	LS/092/23
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01475 712147
Subject:	Commissioner for Older People – Notice of Motion by Councillor Brennan		

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 Brennan, countersigned by Councillor Moran, relative to the appointment of a Commissioner for Older People.
- 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 Brennan.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

Appendix 1

That the Council notes the calls from organisations, including Age Scotland and Independent Age, for a new commissioner to champion the rights of older people in Scotland to ensure that the long-term needs of people in later life are considered in policy and practice across government, that negative stereotypes are challenged and the contribution older people make to society are promoted;

That the Council also: -

- acknowledges projections that Scotland's population is continuing to age and that by 2040, 1 in 4 people will be aged over 65;
- highlights that new statistics from the Scottish Government published in March 2023 reveal that in 2019-22, 15% of pensioners in Scotland were living in relative poverty after housing costs, compared with 14% in the previous period;
- believes that the COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on older people;
- notes the view that this demonstrates more than ever the need to give older people a strong, independent voice to reflect their views and experiences and protect and promote their human rights; and
- further notes that all four nations of the UK now have commissioners for children; understands that Wales and Northern Ireland already have commissioners who are improving the lives of older people, and that the campaign for a commissioner for England is reportedly growing all the time and notes the current consultation on a member's bill to establish an Older Person's Commissioner for Scotland.

Therefore, the Council agrees that it should respond to the consultation in support of the proposal to amplify the voices of older people in Scotland, with authority being delegated to the Chief Social Work Officer to issue the said response, in consultation with the Convenor of the Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

Proposed – Councillor Brennan

Seconded – Councillor Moran

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	Report No:	LS/087/23
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01475 712147
Subject:	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Provision in Inverclyde – Notice of Motion by Councillor McVey		

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 McVey, countersigned by Councillor Brennan, relative to Fire Service provision 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 McVey.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

Appendix 1

This council regards the safety of Inverclyde's residents as paramount.

It therefore supports the Fire Brigade Union's position that the proposed cuts to fire and rescue service provision, at Greenock Community Fire Station, will result in increased response times and an increased risk to life.

This council calls on the Scottish Government to reverse the proposed £36m cuts to the SFRS budget in order that resources can be maintained at Greenock Community Fire Station, i.e. two whole time fire and rescue appliances, including provision for high reach capabilities – either separately or combined and one on-call appliance.

Proposed – Councillor McVey

Seconded – Councillor Brennan

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	Report No:	LS/098/23
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01475 712147
Subject:	Disposable Vapes – Notice of Motion by Councillor Reynolds		

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 Reynolds, countersigned by Councillor Armstrong, relative to disposable vapes.
- 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 Reynolds.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

Appendix 1

Inverclyde Council welcomes the decision by the Scottish Government to consult on a ban on disposable vapes and the intimation that the UK government may do likewise.

Council is asked to note reports of concern regarding vaping and a surge in children and adolescents using e-cigarettes. Current evidence shows that vaping products are not for children, young people or non-smokers and are useful in adults only as a potential route towards stopping smoking. There is strong evidence from the last 5 years that e-cigarettes, which can be bright and colourful and come in a wide variety of e-liquid flavours, potentially alter and/or slow cognitive and physical development in children and young people. Recent evidence further demonstrates that the long-term risks of vaping cannot yet be definitively confirmed by research studies but it should be considered that these products are harmful and are a risk to the long-term health of young people. Therefore, Council is asked to note the importance of highlighting these potential risks for future generations, locally and across the country, to avoid the vaping industry creating life-long nicotine addicts, in the same way as the tobacco industry did.

The Council is asked to write to the appropriate Scottish Minister asking them to urgently consider legislation concerning the sale of vaping products to be in line with that for tobacco products, so that the sale of nicotine products (not used for the NHS Scotland smoking cessation programmes) is consistent.

The Council is asked to write to the appropriate officials at the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland Public Health asking them to urgently consider regulation of vaping products, including product strengths, availability and advertising.

The Council asks officers to work with partners in Police Scotland and NHS to explore what actions can be taken by the Council to address these concerns, including (i) the expansion of test purchasing to include the sale of age restricted vaping products from retail outlets, (ii) the possibility of introducing an Inverclyde retailers charter that will stop cash sales of vaping products, in an effort to reduce proxy purchasing for underage young people, and (iii) the continuation of health awareness programmes to educate communities over the risk associated with vaping, with officers to bring a report forward to a future meeting of the relevant Committee.

Proposed – Councillor Reynolds

Seconded – Councillor Armstrong