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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>26 September 2024</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Director Environment &amp; Regeneration</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>IC/24/09/01/SJ</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Stuart Jamieson</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712761</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update in respect of the Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Council are asked to note the content of the report on the Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force.

**Stuart Jamieson**  
**Director – Environment and Regeneration**

### 3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 Following discussions in 2022 between the then Deputy First Minister along with the Leader of the Council it was agreed that a Socio-Economic Task Force be formed to address inequalities in Inverclyde.
- 3.2 The Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force began in June 2022 and has met 9 times. The task force has been supported through attendance by a number of Ministers from both the Scottish and UK governments, Tom Arthur MSP and Kirsty McNeill MP are the current Ministerial attendees. Cross party attendance takes place at a Council level and is jointly chaired by Stuart McMillan MSP and the Leader of the Council.
- 3.3 During its lifetime the Task Force has focussed on the four key themes of business, business premises, skills and housing with independent validation taking place that these are the most significant themes affecting the sustainability of Inverclyde, alongside depopulation.
- 3.4 Since its inception the Task Force has also been remitted to deal with significant job losses in Inverclyde at Amazon, IBM Kyndryl, Bibby and most recently EE. In total these represent over 1200 jobs and whilst many of these jobs have not been lost to Scotland, they are all direct losses to Inverclyde.
- 3.5 The Scottish Government sought the ask of the Council which resulted in a document being presented to both Governments in 2023. The focus of the ask related to the themes identified in Para 3.3. In total projects to a value of just under £70m were identified at sites at Kelburn, Port Glasgow Industrial Estate, an Investment Zone, the A8, Clune Park, lower Port Glasgow, as well as skills training and fiscal powers for Inverclyde. Officers have engaged with colleagues in Scottish Government, unfortunately no funding sources have been made available.
- 3.6 During this period the Council has benefitted from allocations from the Shared Prosperity Fund, the Levelling Up Fund and the Towns Fund. While these are significant investments by the UK Government, none of these interventions have been unique to Inverclyde.
- 3.7 Engagement and in particular the outcomes achieved for Inverclyde in respect of the job losses at Amazon and EE has been particularly disappointing despite having Ministerial support.
- 3.8 At its most recent meeting the Task Force considered its next steps and it has been agreed that a meeting take place between Ministers, the Joint Chairs and relevant Officers.

### 4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that a meeting is scheduled to consider the next steps of the Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force and a report will be brought back to full Council.

### 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

None

## 5.4 Human Resources

None

## 5.5 Strategic

Task Force intervention is seen as a strategic intervention involving both Scottish and UK Governments.