
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	5 November 2024
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/55/24/TM
Contact Officer:	Tony McEwan Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Education and Communities Committee with developments in relation to the Communities part of the Committee and to request approval of changes to the IL memorandum of understanding; and agree the three year license of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

1.3 Updates have been provided on the following areas:

1. Locality Planning: Community Conversations Weeks;
2. Early Adopter Community for Affordable Childcare;
3. Fairer Futures Partnership;
4. Duke of Edinburgh Award;
5. Summer Programme 2024;
6. Battery Park Lighting Project;
7. Independent review of Community Learning and Development (CLD) in Scotland;
8. Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report;
9. Inverclyde Leisure Memorandum and Articles of Association
10. Inveclyde Libraries Supporting Realistic Medicine;
11. Green Libraries Week;
12. Summer Reading Challenge;
13. Heard in the Library – School Library Improvement Fund;
14. Galoshans Festival 10th Anniversary;
15. Inverclyde Music Service, Concerts, Competitions and Events; and
16. The Watt Institution.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee:

- notes the updates provided in this report;
- agrees the new 3-year DofE award license and notes the contribution of the DofE Inverclyde Support Group; and
- approves the revisions to Inverclyde Leisure's Articles of Association as set out at paragraph 3.9 of this report

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 Updates

3.1 Locality Planning: Community Conversation Weeks

The upcoming Community Conversation Weeks provide a series of events designed to foster meaningful dialogue between residents and local officials. Community members will be encouraged and supported to have their say to shape the future of Inverclyde. During these weeks, council officers and community partners will focus on four key themes: Affordable out of School Childcare; Your Community; Community Safety; and Learning in the Community. It is hoped that these events will help build a better understanding of the communities' priorities and concerns in their local areas.

There will be a variety of methods in which community members can have their say:

- Online participation: Utilise our dedicated Community Choices platform to share your thoughts and suggestions <https://inverclyde.communitychoices.scot/>;
- In-Person Events;
- Attend listening events;
- Digital support sessions; and
- Community drop-in sessions

Events will be held on the following weeks beginning:

- Port Glasgow: 28 October 2024;
- Greenock South & Southwest: 18 November 2024
- Greenock East & Central: 2 December 2024
- Inverkip & Wemyss Bay: 27 January 2025
- Greenock West and Gourock: 10 February 2025
- Kilmacolm and Quarriers Village: 24th February 2025

3.2 Early Adopter Community project (EAC)

Inverclyde Council has been awarded a further £1.2 million from Scottish Government to continue to develop the Early Adopter Community project for affordable out of school childcare until March 2026. The grant will be used to take a whole family approach to affordable childcare and to better understand the need of parents and carers who use or may use local childcare services. The Early Adopter Communities will be expanded to a further two localities in the Inverclyde area and the number of children and families supported will increase.

The grant will be used to provide consistent, reliable childcare services including the provision of food and transport when necessary. Support families to access and utilise existing childcare subsidies including the flexible support fund, universal credit and tax-free childcare, and offer subsidised childcare places if the childcare subsidies are not an option for the family. The Early Adopter Community will continue to work closely with the Scottish Childminding Association to support existing childminders with subsidised costs and to develop the workforce and increase the number of childminders in the area.

To enhance the development of the Early Adopter Community, Inverclyde Council will receive an additional grant of £500k, to 31 March 2025 to adapt underutilised parts of Boglestone Community Centre to create a community-based system of childcare that supports families most at risk of living in poverty, from early years to the end of primary school.

3.3 Fairer Future Partnership (FFP)

Inverclyde Council has been awarded a new grant of £497k by the Scottish Government to 31 March 2026 to develop and implement the Fairer Futures Partnership (FFP). The Fairer Futures Partnership programme will develop a person-centred pathfinder hub in Boglestone Community

Centre Port Glasgow to serve as a central point for multi-agency collaboration and person-centred support for people living in Port Glasgow who are living in poverty and facing inequalities. The Fairer Futures Partnership programme will effectively work to identify solution, and systems change to improve access and efficiencies around service provision for families living in poverty and facing inequalities including the 6 child poverty priority families. The project will test and adapt place based targeted change ideas and create new approaches to address the impacts of poverty.

The Fairer Futures Partnership programme intends to be a catalyst for public sector reform through the creation of better collaborations, creating a person-centred service, with users at the heart of the design and delivery codesigning services that meet their needs. The FFP programme will use data to identify need and track progress of improvements providing people with opportunities and choice.

3.4 Duke of Edinburgh Award

Over the past 5 years, participation in and achievement of the DofE Award by young people in Inverclyde has steadily increased. The local authority has been informed by the DofE that Inverclyde's new participation rate ranks among the top 15 in Scotland. Moreover, within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SMID) areas of Scotland, Inverclyde stands at a commendable third position in terms of new participation. The DofE has recently implemented a revised system for recording participant data which is different from previous system with the focus more on participation than achievement.

Of particular note is the Inverclyde DofE Support Group's critical role in the award's ongoing success in Inverclyde, as evidenced by the consistently high levels of participation and completion.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award operating license is reviewed annually and renewed now every 3 years instead of previous 5 years. Following 5 years of successful operation by the service, Inverclyde Council's license has been renewed and the Education and Communities Committee is asked to approve this on behalf of the Council.

3.5 Summer Programme 2024

Inverclyde Council collaborated with local partners to provide a diverse range of holiday programmes during the summer of 2024. These coordinated activities included affordable childcare, playschemes, youth work, active schools' programs, school transitions programmes, childcare services, community programs, and family stay-and-play sessions. Many of these services were offered free of charge to children and families.

Inverclyde Leisure on behalf of Inverclyde Council operated the playschemes in seven venues across Inverclyde for four weeks and supported over 9,000 children on a first-come, first-served basis. This was an increase of around 1500 more young people attending from the previous year.

The Active Schools program offered free access to 93 summer sports sessions, including six sessions specifically designed for children with additional support needs. Over 1,300 young people participated, with 32% coming from low-income families: 11.5% having additional support needs, and many being in care or kinship care. These sessions also provided nearly 200 volunteer opportunities for residents.

The Affordable Childcare service at Newark Primary School provided a regulated, qualified service during a four-week period of the summer holiday, supporting 35 children daily. Over 700 free spaces were available to eligible families, with more than 450 taking a place. Children participated in a variety of play, sports, and art activities and had the opportunity to join local trips.

Additional Support Needs Family Sessions were developed in collaboration with the ASN Parent and Carer Group and offered services to families of children with additional support needs. The program was designed around family needs and preferences, using a co-design approach and continually sought feedback to adapt activities and the environment. Parental feedback highlighted the programme's inclusive and responsive nature, flexible activity offerings, and the expertise and support provided by parents.

3.6 **Battery Park Lighting Project**

Improved lighting in the Battery Park, secured through UK Government funding, in a bid to make people feel safer during darker mornings and evenings, has now been completed. The step was taken after safe walking spaces were highlighted as a concern in a Public Space, Activity and Women's Safety Survey, which prompted the council to seek improvements.

Inverclyde Council followed up that survey with a further public consultation on the Battery Park in Gourock, with over 500 respondents during summer 2023, and 90% of them agreeing that lighting the park would increase their perception of safety and they would use the park more. The installation process, which spanned throughout 2023 and 2024, culminated in the lights being switched on in September.

3.7 **Independent review of CLD in Scotland**

A national review of CLD was undertaken to consider the extent to which CLD is contributing to delivering positive outcomes in line with Scottish Government priorities, including examination of the respective roles and responsibilities of those involved.

The findings of the review which are now being considered by the Scottish Government, made 20 recommendations under 6 headings:

- Leadership and Structures;
- Overarching Policy;
- Narrative Focus on Delivery;
- Budgets and Funding;
- Developing workforce standards; and
- Demonstrating Impact.

The full report can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/learning-life-report-independent-review-community-learning-development-cld/>.

3.8 **Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report**

The Annual Report forms part of the overall performance management overview of IL's activities and ensures that the continued financial support of Inverclyde Leisure contributes to measurable improvements in the provision of high-class facilities and improved participation in sports and leisure activities. Elected members were briefed on the annual report on 24 October 2024. A copy of the annual report is available here using this link.

<https://www.inverclydeleisure.com/media/1780/master-annual-report-23-24.pdf>

3.9 **Inverclyde Leisure Memorandum and Articles of Association**

Inverclyde Leisure adopted the current Memorandum and Articles of Association on April 14, 2003, upon the establishment of the Inverclyde Leisure Trust. They were amended in March

2017. Clause 28.1 of the existing Articles stipulates that no changes to the Articles shall be made without the express written consent of Inverclyde Council. Inverclyde Leisure is also required to notify Companies House and OSCR of any changes. Finally, the Board of Inverclyde Leisure will have to approve the proposal by special resolution or a special general meeting, requiring 21 days clear notice.

The current Articles state that there shall be a maximum of 9 Members at any time, comprised of the following categories:

- 4 nominated by Inverclyde Council
- 1 IL Employee nominations
- 4 co-opted Members chosen from their experience and expertise from the local business/general community

Article 5.4 of the current Articles states that the IL Employee nominated member will have a period of membership of 36 months.

The Chief Executive and Chair of the IL Board are proposing a change to Article 5.4. The purpose of this change is to reduce the period in which a company employee can sit on the Board from 36 months to 12 months in order to give more employees the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Article 5.4 will, once approved, read as follows:

Subject to the provisions of these Articles, the Nominated Member nominated by the employees of the Company shall be a member of the Company for a period of **twelve** months following their admission in terms of Article 6 and the Secretary shall ensure that elections are held timeously prior to the expiry of each **twelve** months period to nominate Nominated Members to be admitted as members from the expiry of the existing Nominated Member's period of appointment. An existing Nominated Member shall, if willing to act, be eligible for re-election. In addition, the Secretary shall ensure that an election is timeously held in the event of the withdrawal or cessation of, or expulsion from, membership of the Company of any Member nominated by the employees of the Company for any reason other than as a result of the expiry of his period of appointment.

Members are asked to approve this proposed amendment.

3.10 **Inverclyde Libraries Supporting Realistic Medicine**

In line with Inverclyde Libraries commitment to promoting health literacy as part of the Collective Force for Health and Wellbeing, the Service Development Adults team has been working with the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Realistic Medicine project team to increase awareness of the Realistic Medicine approach and relevant resources available across branch libraries in Inverclyde. Realistic Medicine is a person-centred approach to care and aims to empower people to discuss their treatment fully with healthcare professionals. During September and October two events were held at Greenock Central Library for health and wellbeing partners and members of the public, to raise awareness of the Realistic Medicine approach; strengthen partnerships; and engage library users. Staff training will be delivered over the coming weeks to upskill all customer-facing library staff to support customers to engage with the Realistic Medicine approach.

3.11 **Green Libraries Week**

During Green Libraries Week (7 – 13 October) Inverclyde Librarians programmed a series of events and creative workshops that brought focus to sustainable practice and biodiversity, encouraging exploration of the natural world. Activities on offer included foraging and how to identify and use wild plants; photography, drawing and painting workshops; cyanotype and linocut

printing; heritage cooking; and creative writing. All activities sought to engage participants in issues associated with climate and sustainability. Green Libraries Week is coordinated by CILIP (the Chartered Institution of Libraries and Information Professionals).

3.12 **Summer Reading Challenge**

The Service Development Children and Young People's team delivered a well-attended and very successful Summer Reading Challenge Celebration event in Greenock Town Hall on 18/09/24. Over the course of the Summer Reading Challenge the library service as a whole delivered 161 Summer Reading Challenge events, with a total of 2,513 children participating in these. 8,149 children's books were issued as part of the challenge to the 431 children who completed the whole challenge, and the 297 children who completed the mini challenge. Over the course of the Summer Reading Challenge 88 new library memberships were processed for children in Inverclyde.

3.13 **Heard in the Library – School Library Improvement Fund**

Heard in the Library is a School Library Improvement Fund (SLIF) project from the Scottish Library and Information Council that has engaged young people across Inverclyde's secondary schools in an exploration of the area's historic links with the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Through collaborative workshops, the participating young people have produced creative storytelling responses to this complex history, using both audio and graphic illustration. A celebration event in October will see the launch of a publication and web content relating to this project. The project also funded anti-racism training for the young people involved, the School Library Supervisors, and Public Library staff across Inverclyde.

3.14 **Galoshans Festival 10th Anniversary**

The Galoshans Festival runs from 17 October – 2 November, and this year marks the festival's tenth anniversary. Both Inverclyde Libraries Service and the Watt Institution are supporting the festival through programmed events and activities.

3.15 **Inverclyde Music Service – Concerts, Competitions and Events**

Participation in live performance through bands, ensembles and choirs is a key element of the IMS offer to children and young people across Inverclyde. During September 540 young people attended a Vocal Masterclass at Port Glasgow Town Hall – held across three sessions – led by Christopher Bell, Conductor of the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCoS). Pupils from P4 – S6 all had the opportunity to develop their singing skills, supported by IMS Vocal Instructors.

The annual IMS Christmas concert will take place on Thursday 5 December in Greenock Town Hall, offering the IMS Senior Wind Band useful preparation ahead of their performance at the National Concert Band Festival on 19 January 2025 in Barrhead. This is the first Scottish Band Festival for schools since the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The IMS Piping Project (which is 100% externally funded) is seeing notable progress across its cohort, with a number of pupils progressing from chanters and drum pads to pipes and drums sooner than anticipated. In support of this project, a successful application was made to the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) to purchase drums and associated kit up to a maximum of £9k to benefit instruction. In addition to this funding, the service has also been successful in securing 10 sets of 'loan' pipes.

3.16 **The Watt Institution**

The team at the Watt Institution has been working closely with Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) to deliver activities as part of its Workforce for the Future Programme. In partnership with Inverclyde Academy over 100 S2 pupils have been on a site tour of the museum to learn about object display, technology in museums, and the wide range of jobs required across the museum sector nationally. Over the course of a ten-week programme, school groups will continue to explore themes and ideas associated with the museum in their classrooms. The project will culminate in a 'Cabinet of Curiosities' display at the Watt Institution, curated by the young people involved.

Public programming in support of the MGS-funded Reanimating the Past project at the Watt has seen a notable uplift in visitors on site. Most recently, a particularly successful 'Fantastic Fossils' drop in event saw an unprecedented 600 visitors through the door over the course of one Saturday. This event sought to engage families with the natural sciences collection at the Watt – an important element of the institution's founding collections.

During October, the Watt team has been invited by MGS to present at a Parliamentary Reception in support of its sector-wide Delivering Change project. The Watt team's involvement will allow them to showcase the work done by the museum service to tackle the legacy of Inverclyde's historic links to Transatlantic Slavery

The Watt Institution will close to the public for a two-week period commencing Monday 4 November. This closure will enable capital works funded by MGS' Capital Resilience Fund to go ahead. These works will see the lighting rig in the Watt Hall replaced with directional, dimmable LED lighting. Lighting upgrades will also be made elsewhere in the building, reducing its carbon footprint and contributing to realisation of the Council's wider Net Zero goals.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

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

4.1 **Finance**

One off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

4.2 **Legal/Risk**

N/A

4.3 **Human Resources**

N/A

4.4 **Strategic**

All updated provided in this report align to the priorities of the Council Plan and Partnership Plan.

4.5 **Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People**

Equalities

- (a) 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. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

Fairer Scotland Duty

- (b) If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

Children and Young People

(c)

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

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

4.6 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

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

4.7 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 N/A