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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>21 January 2025</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/03/2025/TM</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Tony McEwan Head of Culture, Communities &amp; Educational Resources</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712828</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives</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 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;
- 1.3 Updates have been provided on the following areas:
1. Inverclyde's Anti-social behaviour strategy review;
  2. 16 Days of Action;
  3. Inverclyde Fire Skills Course;
  4. Inverclyde Leisure Memorandum and Articles of Association;
  5. Inverclyde Music Service;
  6. Book Week Scotland;
  7. Scottish Book Trust – Bookbug Gifting;
  8. Libraries as Community Spaces;
  9. Galoshan's Festival 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; and
  10. The Watt Institution

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee:
- notes the updates provided in this report; and
  - approves the revision to Inverclyde Leisure's Articles of Association as set out in paragraph 3.4 of this report

**Ruth Binks**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Education, Communities and Organisational Development**

## **3.0 Updates**

### **3.1 Inverclyde Antisocial Behaviour Strategy**

In 2021 the Scottish Government commissioned a review of Scotland's approach to antisocial behaviour (ASB). The review, published in 2023, highlighted the need for a long-term approach to prevent and tackle ASB. It recommended the establishment of an independent working group to develop a framework for addressing ASB, with a focus on prevention and evaluating current approaches.

This group is expected to report its findings to the Scottish Government in November 2024, with the publication of recommendations anticipated in 2025. Inverclyde ASB Strategy period ends in March 2025 and in order to meet the legislative requirements of The Act, the Community Safety Partnership has begun an interim review of the current strategy with a view to extending it for a period, until the findings and recommendations of the national review are known.

### **3.2 16 days of Action**

The 16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign, running from November 25th to December 10th, aims to raise awareness, support survivors, and advocate for ending violence against women and girls (VAWG).

This year's theme, "Imagine a Scotland without GBV," aligns with the global theme "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls." Key initiatives across Inverclyde include lighting up the Lyle Fountain in Greenock and Shipbuilders Sculptures in Port Glasgow in purple to mark the campaign; information sessions and empowerment walks led by Inverclyde Women's Aid; a fire walk for invited guests to recognise the strength of women accessing Women's Aid; and a prayer service at St Mary's Church to raise awareness of the campaign.

Police Scotland was actively involved, promoting the "Ask for Angela" campaign in licensed premises, training officers on domestic abuse, and focusing on proactive work to address perpetrators and risks. Additionally, Cappielow, home of Greenock Morton Football Club, displayed campaign banners and posters with QR codes linking to the 16 Days web page. Staff and partners were asked to support the campaign by using designated MS Teams backgrounds, email logos and sharing social media posts. Information and resources were promoted on Inverclyde Council's dedicated 16 Days web page.

### **3.3 Inverclyde Fire Skills Course**

A group of young people learned all about team building, problem-solving and health and safety as part of a Fire Skills course at Port Glasgow Community Fire Station. S3 pupils from Notre Dame High School and Inverclyde Academy took part in the week-long course, which is run in partnership between Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Inverclyde Council.

They learned vital skills then rounded off the week with a practical demo in front of representatives from their schools, their families, elected members from Inverclyde Council and other partner agencies. They received certificates to mark their participation by Provost Drew McKenzie and the work carried out during the week will be used as evidence towards accredited awards by Inverclyde Council's Community Safety & Resilience and Youth Work teams.

### **3.4 Inverclyde Leisure Memorandum and Articles of Association**

At a meeting of the Education and Communities Committee in November 2024, a proposal was put forward by the Inverclyde Leisure Board to reduce the period of membership for the IL employees to 12 months. The rationale for this change was to improve employee experience on

the Board. However, the Education and Communities Committee expressed a concern that the twelve-month period was too short. IL have since consulted with staff and its board and have agreed that the employee membership term could be reduced to 24 months. Employees consulted felt that 12 months was too short and three years was too long. It is therefore proposed that a period of 24 months is agreed by the Education and Communities Committee.

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; and
- 4 co-opted Members chosen for their experience and expertise from the local business and wider community.

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

Article 5.4 will, if approved, will 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 **24** 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 **24** month 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.

### **3.5 Inverclyde Music Service – Concerts, Competitions and Events**

On Sunday 1 December, the Junior and Senior Wind Orchestras travelled to Barrhead for the Scottish Schools Concert Band Festival. The Junior Wind Orchestra was awarded a Silver Plus; and the Senior Wind Orchestra was awarded a Gold Plus. Both orchestras will now participate in the National Finals in March 2025.

The annual IMS Christmas concert took place on Thursday 5 December in Greenock Town Hall and proved hugely successful. Young people from across Inverclyde performed to a sold-out Town Hall, sharing festive favourites old and new with a receptive audience. Represented on stage were the Junior and Senior String orchestras; Junior and Senior Wind Orchestras; the Training Band; Piping, Chanter, and Pipe Drumming Groups; Guitar Group; Junior Choir; and VOISS (Voices of Inverclyde Senior Schools). Performances by all groups and ensembles showcased the talent of Inverclyde's young people, supported by our team of dedicated IMS instructors in various roles, including conducting and accompanying.

Funds secured from the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) for drums and associated kit has enabled the purchase of equipment to support a full drum corps, to the benefit of Inverclyde's Music Service. Seven snare drums, seven tenor drums, a bass drum, and accessories are now in use.

In addition, the SSPDT has supplied Inverclyde's Music Service with ten sets of 'loan' pipes, under its 'Set for Life' scheme. This scheme is funded through SSPDT's enterprise programme. Over a three-year period, young people in receipt of a set of loan pipes have the opportunity to fundraise towards individual ownership. This is intended to ensure that – following tuition in school – individuals are encouraged to maintain piping as a lifetime hobby. The scheme recognises the importance of piping as a social activity; a contributor to overall wellbeing; and a potential income stream. The music service will further support participating young people in their fundraising endeavours.

### 3.6 **Book Week Scotland**

Inverclyde Libraries participated in the Scottish Book Trust's annual Book Week Scotland initiative (18-24 November), celebrating books and reading on the theme of *Hope* across branch libraries. Funding was also secured to support programming, including Live Literature funding specifically for an author event. Following consultation with Inverclyde Libraries Book Group members, Creative Writing group, and customers, author Alex Gray was invited to Gourock Library to read from her latest crime novel and discuss her writing career to date. Book Week Scotland is supported by Creative Scotland and the Scottish Library & Information Council (SLIC).

### 3.7 **Scottish Book Trust – Bookbug Gifting**

During November Inverclyde Libraries Children and Young People's team delivered a successful Bookbug Gifting programme. All P1 pupils in Inverclyde had the opportunity to visit their local library with their class, and each received a free bag of books and learning resources to share at home with their families. This year, 648 Bookbug bags were distributed as part of the Scottish Book Trust's annual gifting programme. P2 and P3 pupils also received Read, Write, Count bags directly from their school, and the library service will further support teachers to utilise these resources during themed library visits in the new year.

### 3.8 **Libraries as Community Spaces**

Libraries staff were offered Trauma Informed Practice Training in October. Adapted for library staff, this training opportunity was delivered by the Trauma Informed practice Lead in line with the Council's commitment to the National Trauma Transformation Programme.

Libraries continue to provide groups and individuals with safe spaces to meet, whilst serving as reliable information sources. During November, Greenock Central Library hosted the Glasgow & Clyde Rape Crisis Centre information pop-up, signposting to support available; Carers Gateway hosted drop-in sessions for un-paid carers across five branch libraries, creating an opportunity for carers to meet and learn about assistance available to them in their own communities; colleagues from the Early Adopter Childcare Project are collaborating with Greenock South West library to deliver a Christmas Bookbug session, during which free books – selected and provided by the Libraries service – and selection boxes will be distributed to families in attendance; Gourock, Kilmacolm and Port Glasgow libraries all extended their opening hours during the Christmas Lights switch on to support Santa's attendance – they were also a warm space for children participating in the festive singing to enjoy a snack.

The Libraries Service has also been working with CLD colleagues to support the Community Choices consultation currently underway, with branch libraries serving as venues for in-person listening events as part of locality specific Community Conversation weeks.

### 3.9 Galoshans Festival 10th Anniversary

Programmed events and activities for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Galoshans Festival proved successful across both Inverclyde Libraries and the Watt Institution. Port Glasgow Library hosted a particularly successful visit by The Scottish Paranormal Team, who recounted some of the fascinating and chilling experiences they have had whilst investigating the supernatural across Scotland. Audience interaction also saw some unsuccessful attempts to make contact with the supernatural world, although these failed attempts did nothing to diminish enthusiasm. At the Watt Institution artist and storyteller Jidefor Muotune, aka #theAfrowegian, referenced masks and other objects in the Watt's historic collections to tell an 'Anansi story' – Anansi is a character from West African folklore, usually represented as a spider and associated with stories of wisdom, knowledge and trickery.

### 3.10 The Watt Institution

Following a brief period of closure in early November to enable lighting upgrade works in the Watt Hall, the Watt Institution has reopened to the public. Funded by Museums Galleries Scotland's (MGS) Capital Resilience Fund, a new lighting rig has been installed in the Watt Hall. The new lights are directional, dimmable and use LED bulbs. Overall, these upgrade works are intended to reduce the carbon footprint of the Watt Institution, help contribute to realisation of the Council's wider Net Zero goals, and support increased use of this important community space.

## 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