

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 In August 2024, the Policy and Resources Committee approved an allocation of £40,000 from the Common Good fund to create a series of events to mark the 250th anniversary of Port Glasgow.
- 3.2 The Port Glasgow (Improvement) Act 1775 was passed on 22 May 1775, establishing Port Glasgow as a burgh, or town. It is the 250th anniversary of the Act this year.
- 3.3 The corporate communications team continue to work with local cultural, community and heritage partners to help co-ordinate events already planned and to promote ideas for specific projects.
- 3.4 The Council already provide £13,300 financial support to the annual Comet Festival held in Port Glasgow.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 A public consultation was carried out in January 2025 to gauge support for proposed Council led projects to mark Port Glasgow's 250th anniversary. The consultation included a possible arts initiative with schools, music commissions, floral displays and an extended festival duration and programming.
- 4.2 There was support for all the projects tabled, with the least support for commissioning of a sea shanty style music piece. There were also further additional public suggestions for heritage activations.
- 4.3 As a result, the music commissions, floral displays, school art initiatives and extended Comet Festival will be further developed and delivered utilising the allocated £40,000 from the Common Good Fund. The sea shanty will be replaced with other heritage projects.
- 4.4 The Comet Festival extension had the greatest support, and therefore for 2025, the festival will take place over both the Saturday and Sunday (21/22 June), in Coronation Park.
- 4.5 Additional "fringe" activity in the town itself, will be coordinated over the weekend by businesses and partners. Special programming will be added to the Festival on Saturday 21 June, celebrating the history and heritage of the area. On Sunday 22 June, activity will incorporate the Port Glasgow 10k, a raft race and a Praise in the Park event.
- 4.6 Over the course of the commemorative year, additional activities will continue to be developed and delivered under the PG250 banner including:
 - A custom Dungeon and Dragons campaign based around the history of Port Glasgow, aimed at young people and adults, delivered by Inverclyde Library Services with support from Newark Castle.
 - A series of curated speaker events exploring the different ways in which the River Clyde is intrinsically linked to the history and heritage of Inverclyde.
 - An exhibition at the Watt Institution exploring views of Port Glasgow and Newark with possible pop-up activity at Newark Castle, and/or Port Glasgow Library.
 - As part of the 'Connecting Inverclyde' heritage project, memory sharing activities within the local community, delivered by Cultural Services.
 - Development of interactive, interpretation panels at the Shipbuilders of Port Glasgow sculptures.
 - Family learning and craft activities at Port Glasgow Library, exploring stories of the town
 - The opening of Port Glasgow Community Hub
 - The opening of Boglestone Community Centre.

- 4.7 A brand toolkit has been developed and will be made available to businesses, partners and community groups to use in their own activities, badging any related events as PG250.
- 4.8 An official launch media release to unveil the new PG250 brand and to encourage groups, organisations and businesses to consider how they too can mark the milestone was published on 27 February. Media engagement will continue to support projects throughout 2025. These will be further promoted via Discover Inverclyde and all available corporate, digital channels. A page on the Discover Inverclyde website will also be developed to house all the relevant information on events and projects over the course of 2025. Hashtag: #PG250
- 4.9 Corporate Communications will continue to liaise with local groups on any new events and with Glasgow City Council on any opportunities to link in with Glasgow 850, their respective commemorative year.

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

N/A

5.3 Legal/Risk

N/A.

5.4 Human Resources

N/A

5.5 Strategic

This links with the Council Plan.

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.
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(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.
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X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty.
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(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.
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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.
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5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
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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.
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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.
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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.
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6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A.