

---

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>The Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b> 2 December 2010
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Regeneration &amp; Environment</b>	<b>Report No:</b> FJ/LA/619/10
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Fraser Jarvie</b>	<b>Contact No:</b> 01475 712121
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Appointment to Outside Body: HMP Low Moss - Visiting Committee</b>	

---

## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Council to either (1) nominate an elected member as a representative on the Prison Visiting Committee of the new prison, HMP Low Moss and instruct advertisement to fill the other vacancy on the Committee by a non-elected representative or (2) instruct advertisement to fill both vacancies on the new Committee by non-elected representatives.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 A new prison, HMP Low Moss, is being built to replace the old prison near Bishopbriggs and is due to open around March 2011. The new prison will require a Visiting Committee (VC) which is a statutory requirement for the Councils of the prison catchment area as detailed in the Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989, at section 8. The catchment area for the new prison is North Strathclyde, consequently the following six local authorities will be required to provide representation on the new HMP Low Moss Prison Visiting Committee:

Argyll & Bute;  
Renfrewshire;  
East Renfrewshire;  
East Dunbartonshire;  
West Dunbartonshire; and  
Inverclyde

- 2.2 The Scottish Prison Service have calculated that based on the projected prisoner population of around 700 the total number of VC members required is 15 which is consistent with VC representation at other prisons of similar size. The local authorities are responsible for recruiting, selecting and appointing VC members. This results in the commitment from Inverclyde Council of either (i) one elected and one non-elected member or (ii) two non-elected members.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Council either (1) appoint one member to serve on the Low Moss Prison Visiting Committee and instruct advertisement to fill the other vacancy for a non-elected member with a report to be brought back to Committee for nomination from the applicants who come forward in response to the advert or (2) instruct advertisement to fill both vacancies with a report to be brought back as aforesaid.

Fraser Jarvie  
Legal & Democratic Services