

I refer to Item 12 on the agenda for the meeting of The Inverclyde Council on Thursday 24 February 2011 relating to Greenock Coastguard Centre and now attach motion submitted by Councillor McCabe for consideration by Members.

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The Future of Greenock Coastguard Centre

ITEM 12A

This Council is concerned at the proposal by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, contained within the consultation document 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century', to close the Clyde Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre at Greenock, resulting in the loss of up to 35 frontline operational coastguard posts.

This Council believes that:

- (i) these cuts to an essential front line emergency service will put the lives of Inverclyde residents and all those that use the seas of the West Coast of Scotland at risk;
- (ii) the proposals within the consultation document rely too heavily on new technology that has not been developed or tested and that replacing years of local knowledge by such systems as Google mapping is fundamentally wrong;
- (iii) the proposals will cause inherent delays in the emergency response causing delays to rescue helicopters and RNLI lifeboats been despatched to people in trouble.

This Council therefore supports the campaign by the PCS Union Branch and Staff at Greenock to retain the Clyde Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and calls up the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to reconsider its proposals.