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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>The Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>10 April 2014</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>FJ/AI/LA/1151/14</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Fraser Jarvie, Legal Services Manager, Legal &amp; Property Services</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712121</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Appointment of Member to Greenock Prison Visiting Committee</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the vacancy which exists on Greenock Prison Visiting Committee (PVC) arising from the resignation of Alexander Nimmo who has been a member in excess of 20 years and to seek approval of the appointment of a replacement member of the public to this position.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Greenock Prison requires a Visiting Committee. This is a statutory requirement for Councils of the Prison's catchment area as detailed in the Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989. The relevant local authorities, including Inverclyde Council are required to provide representation, based upon the likely prisoner demographic and subsequent percentage of the population of each Council.
- 2.3 In accordance with the guidance of the Association of Visiting Committees for Scottish Penal establishments (the AVC) posts relating to the new prison at Low Moss were advertised in the local press in 2012 and following interview 2 members were selected for those positions. However, the quality of applications for the post being high, a short list was retained on the understanding that any subsequent vacancies would be offered to the individual at the top of that list.
- 2.4 Due to the recent uncertainty regarding the future of PVCs in Scotland, Councils have experienced difficulty in attracting members. In particular the position allocated to Argyll & Bute and North Ayrshire Councils are currently unfilled and this puts additional pressure on the current members of the Committee. It is therefore important to fill this post at the earliest opportunity.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the candidate identified at Appendix 1 be appointed as a member of HMP Greenock Visiting Committee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Alexander Nimmo.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement in terms of the Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989 for every prison to have a Visiting Committee (VC). The Councils of the prison's catchment area have the duty to appoint appropriate members to the PVC. The role of the VC has however been subject of a review by the Scottish Government and a new system of prison monitoring is to be introduced. It is understood that it is the government's intention for the new system to come into effect by December 2014. However consultation on the proposals has been ongoing for some time and it is quite possible that it will be the summer of 2015 before the change is effected. In the meantime the Council's statutory responsibility will continue. A summary of the background of the applicant identified as the most suitable candidate is attached at Appendix 1.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

Financial Implications:

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					

Legal

- 5.2 The Council will meet its statutory obligations by making an appointment to fill the vacancy on the PVC.

Equalities

- 5.3 The previous position was publicly advertised to ensure as wide a range of potential applicants as possible, this will have a positive benefit in respect of the Council's equality agenda.

Repopulation

- 5.4 There are no repopulation implications.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 N/A

## **7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 N/A