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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>The Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>5 June 2014</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>RMcG/LA/1173/14</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Rona McGhee</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712113</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Authority Workfare Pledge – Motion by Councillor Clocherty</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Council to consider a motion by Councillor Clocherty, countersigned by Councillor McIlwee, which has been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 22. A copy of the motion is attached as **appendix 1**.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The motion proposes that the Council pledges not to use any workfare placements and encourages contractors not to use workfare schemes.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council is asked to consider the motion by Councillor Clocherty.

**Rona McGhee**  
**Legal & Property Services**

#### 4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The background is as set out in the attached motion by Councillor Clocherty (**appendix 1**).

#### 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

##### Finance

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

##### One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments

##### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments

##### Legal

5.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

##### Human Resources

5.3 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

##### Equalities

5.4 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

##### Repopulation

5.5 There are no repopulation implications arising from this report.

#### 6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Acting Head of Organisational Development, HR & Communications and the Head of Regeneration & Planning have been consulted and advise that the Council has not engaged any persons under the Workfare Programme.

The Council cannot force appointed contractors not to utilise the Workfare Programme and cannot make this mandatory. The Council will, however, continue to encourage all contractors to maximise training and employment opportunities for local residents and to pay at least the Living Wage.

#### 7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

**Local Authority workfare pledge**

This council believes that work should pay and therefore opposes the introduction of schemes which force job seekers into unpaid work or face losing their benefits – schemes known popularly as *workfare*.

This council is concerned that there is no evidence workfare assists job seekers in finding work and in fact working a 30-hour week makes that more difficult; that workfare is replacing paid work; and that workfare stigmatises benefits claimants and locks them further into poverty.

This council pledges not to use any workfare placements and will also encourage contractors not to use the schemes.