
Report To:	Environment and Regeneration Committee	Date:	3rd September 2015
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources	Report No:	RO/30/15/AF
Contact Officer:	Aubrey Fawcett	Contact No:	Ext. 2762
Subject:	Greenock Town Centre Regeneration Forum		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report outlines how the Greenock Town Centre Regeneration Forum is established and its future role in developing and implementing a regeneration strategy for Greenock Town Centre.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 As part of the deliberations of the Members' Budget Working Group a range of Policy Development areas were identified. In this regard, the creation of a town centre working group was proposed for Greenock Town Centre. It is proposed that the working group will be called Greenock Town Centre Regeneration Forum (GTCRF).
- 2.2 The GTCRF will highlight key areas within Greenock Town Centre that are appropriate for regeneration. A main focus of the Forum's activity is to initially oversee the development of a regeneration strategy for Greenock Town Centre. Thereafter it will focus its attention on sourcing external funding to enable priority projects to be implemented. It is proposed that Inverclyde Council will work with Riverside Inverclyde (ri) to bring forward proposals.
- 2.3 It is intended that representation on the Forum will be from a range of stakeholders including local Ward Members, Community Councils and businesses and will meet on a regular basis.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee approves:
- this initiative and notes that, in collaboration with Riverside Inverclyde, the first meeting of the Greenock Town Centre Regeneration Forum will be held after the Summer recess and update reports will be provided to the Environment and Regeneration Committee and ri Board; and,
 - the funding of the preparation of the Regeneration Strategy and Masterplan from the Town and Village Centres Fund as outlined in the report.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council established the Members' Budget Working Group (MBWG) to assist with the delivery of the Council's budget strategy. From discussions, it was considered that there were a number of areas which might benefit from additional support. These areas, known as 'Policy Development' areas included the creation of a working group for Greenock Town Centre.
- 4.2 Members should be aware that other town centres have some form of working groups. Firstly, Port Glasgow benefitted from a charrette process with a regeneration strategy established to guide future investment and most recently, Port Glasgow Regeneration Forum has been formed, chaired by Councillor Michael McCormick, with a primary focus to source external funding to enable priority projects to be implemented. Gourock has an established Central Gourock Members' Working Group and has significant investment ongoing to bring forward public realm, highway and parking enhancements. It is envisaged that a similar Town Centre Forum will be established for Gourock, which will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Central Gourock Redevelopment Members' Working Group. Although in recent years Greenock Town Centre has seen some environmental improvements, there is a need to establish a group which will develop a longer term regeneration strategy for guiding future investment.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that a town centre regeneration forum is established for Greenock Town Centre and the terms of reference are as follows:

Title of Group

Greenock Town Centre Regeneration Forum

Area of Focus

It is proposed that the Forum will concentrate its focus of attention in the area identified in Appendix 1.

Primary Objectives

- Oversee the development of a regeneration strategy for Greenock Town Centre.
- Thereafter, focus its attention on sourcing external funding to enable priority projects to be implemented.

Composition of Forum

Members will include representatives from Riverside Inverclyde, Inverclyde Council, Business Community, Community Council and local Elected Members as outlined below:

- Elected Members Ward 3 and one Member will take on the role of Chair.
- Community Council and Residents Action Group Representatives
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Chamber of Commerce
- Traders Representative e.g. Oak Mall
- Riverside Inverclyde Chief Executive/Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources
- Inverclyde Council Economic Development Manager
- Riverside Inverclyde Physical Regeneration Service Manager

Reporting Procedures

The activities of the Group will be regularly reported by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources to Inverclyde Council's Environment and Regeneration Committee and the Riverside Inverclyde Board.

Administration and Co-ordination

The Forum will be assisted by ri and the newly appointed Physical Regeneration Officer for Town Centres.

Frequency of Meetings

The GTCRF will meet 3 to 4 times a year on predetermined dates.

The Chair and every member or nominee is expected to attend.

The Forum may from time to time consult other officers from a range of agencies and request their attendance on an ad hoc basis.

Preparation of Regeneration Strategy and Masterplan

It is proposed that a charrette process is embarked upon to enable the preparation of a Regeneration Strategy and Masterplan. In this regard, the Council will work with ri to bring forward the strategy/masterplan through the appointment of external consultants. The estimated cost of this is likely to be in the region of £60,000-£70,000, subject to a tender process. Although contact has been made with the Scottish Government to seek financial support, it is proposed that the funding required would be made available from the Town and Village Centres Fund in the first instance.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Projects have yet to be identified and it is envisaged that the development of a regeneration strategy will identify future investment requirements and priorities. However, funding will be required to fund the charrette process and it is proposed this is funded from the Town and Village Centres Fund.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Earmarked Reserves	Town & Village Centres	2015/17	70		Contained within the overall Earmarked Reserve allowance of £300k

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments

Legal

6.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Human Resources

6.3 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

Equalities

6.4 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Repopulation

- 6.5 The regeneration of our town centres has a bearing on repopulation issues. Local town centres are local economic drivers and this initiative will seek to enhance the economic vitality and attractiveness of Greenock Town Centre whilst encouraging people to live and work within Inverclyde.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

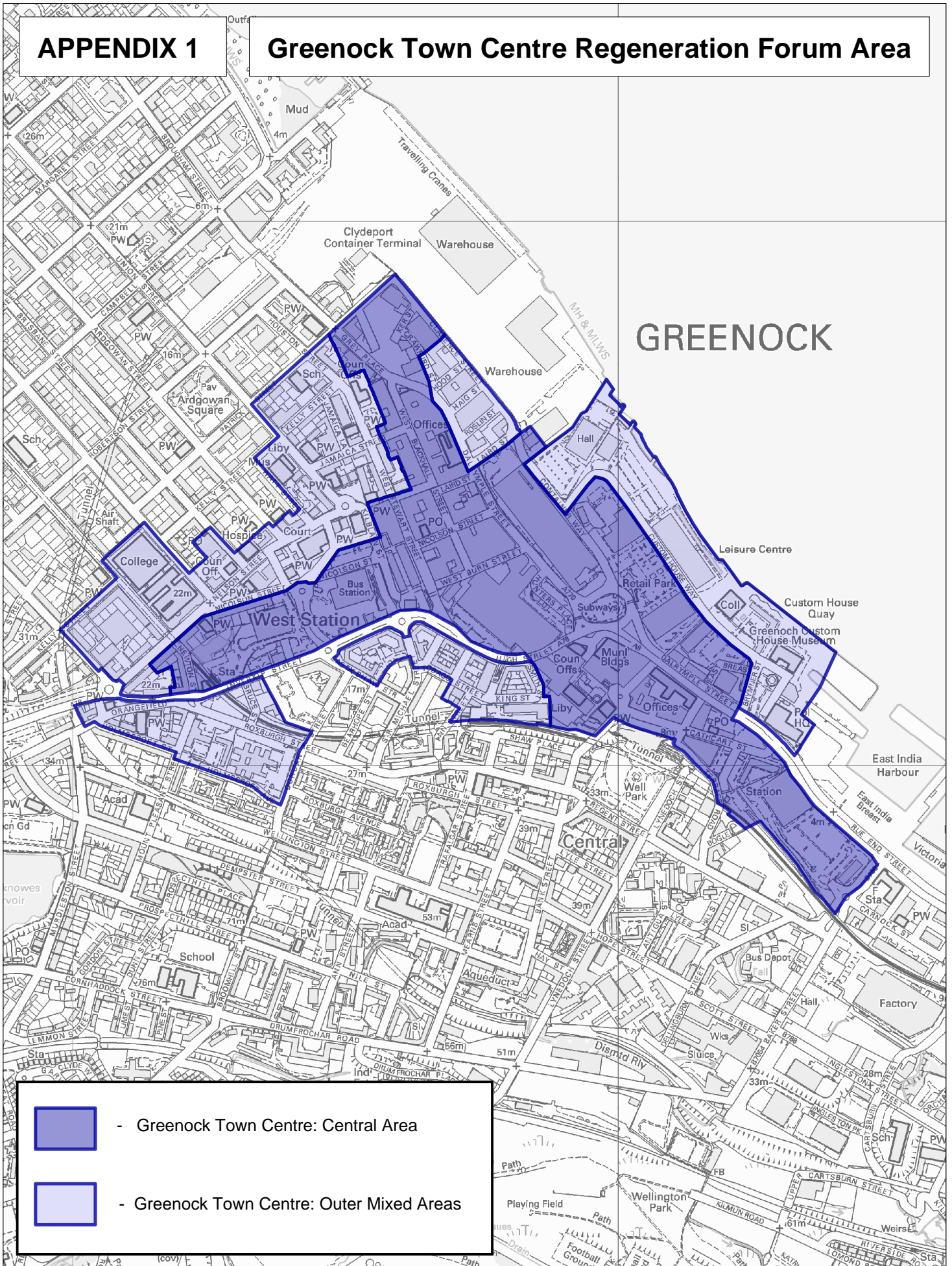
- 7.1 Riverside Inverclyde has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS



- 8.1 None.

APPENDIX 1

Greenock Town Centre Regeneration Forum Area



GREENOCK

-  - Greenock Town Centre: Central Area
-  - Greenock Town Centre: Outer Mixed Areas

