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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>R031/15/AF</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Gourock Town Centre Regeneration Forum</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report outlines how and the Gourock Town Centre Regeneration Forum is to be established and its future role in developing and implementing further regeneration proposals for Gourock Town Centre and seeks the approval thereof by Committee.

## **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 Gourock Town Centre. It is proposed that the working group will be called Gourock Town Centre Regeneration Forum (GTCRF).
- 2.2 The GTCRF will highlight key areas within Gourock Town Centre that are appropriate for regeneration. A main focus of the Forum's activity is to initially oversee the development of further regeneration proposals which complement the recent significant investment in Gourock 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 meet on a regular basis.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That Committee approves this initiative and note that in collaboration with Riverside Inverclyde the first meeting of the Gourock Town Centre Regeneration Forum will be held during Autumn 2015 and update reports will be provided to the Environment and Regeneration Committee and ri Board.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Council established the Members' Budget Working Group (MBWG) to consider a range of proposals to generate savings. The MBWG also agreed 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 and following on from this the proposal for the GTCRF emerged.
- 4.2 Members should be aware 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, however, the MBWG envisaged a similar Town Centre Forum being established for Gourock in addition to the proposed Regeneration Forum for Greenock Town Centre.
- 4.3 Members should also be aware that the Central Gourock Redevelopment Working Group, which met on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2015, supported the establishment of the GTCRF and the scope of proposals as outlined below.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

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

### **Title of Group**

Gourock Town Centre Regeneration Forum

### **Area of Focus**

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

### **Primary Objectives**

- Develop additional regeneration proposals to complement the recent regeneration investment in Gourock 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 5 and one Member will take on the role of Chair.
- Community Council Reps from the two local Community Councils.
- Federation of Small Businesses/Chamber of Commerce
- Traders Reps
- Riverside Inverclyde Chief Executive/Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources
- Inverclyde Council Economic Development Manager
- Riverside Inverclyde Physical Regeneration Service Manager

In addition, additional members/representatives may be co-opted on to the Forum membership on a project specific basis.

## Reporting Procedures

The activities of the Group will be regularly reported by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources to Inverclyde Council's E&R 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 Proposals

Development of future proposals may require additional funding to enable feasibility work to be undertaken, should this prove necessary appropriate reports will be prepared for Members' consideration.

## 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 proposals may require funding to fund feasibility work – this has yet to be determined.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
TBC					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

### 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 Gourock 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.

# Gourock Town Centre

August 2015 Dwg. Z193

