



Inverclyde Alliance

**AGENDA ITEM NO:**

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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Alliance Board</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>15 June 2020</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	Aubrey Fawcett Chair, Programme Board Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council	<b>Report No:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Louise McVey</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712042</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Green Connections Proposal</b>		

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**1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report is seeking the support from the Alliance Board for the Environment Partnership Action Group to take the lead in developing a local Green Connections proposal and to take forward an opportunity to apply for Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' funding.

**2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Lead Officers from the four strategic priority groups of the LOIP have identified a single project that has the potential to provide multiple benefits: economic, social, and environmental. The project will connect people, place and nature and the working title of the project is 'Inverclyde Green Connections'
- 2.2 The vision for the project is to: "Improve quality of life, local community environments and active travel for everyday journeys in order to encourage investment, repopulation, and improved health and well-being."
- 2.3 The aim of the project is to take forward important and identified elements of relevant strategies including active travel, green network and active living and develop this through bespoke and co-ordinated approach to community participation and local place design. Aspiring to deliver added social value, the project will also seek opportunities to develop local skills and employment, and will pursue measures related to social inclusion, healthy lifestyles and active travel behaviour change.
- 2.4 Subject to community consideration the Inverclyde Green Connections project will potentially focus on six priority areas: National Cycle Route 75, Greenock Central Link, Carts Burn Link, Port Glasgow Link, Coves and Lady Octavia Park. Appendix 1 provide the full project overview and maps of the proposed areas.
- 2.5 The project will work with local people living next to these proposed areas to encourage participation and discussion on the best way to improve connectivity between the neighbourhoods, the town centres and the natural, cultural and historic assets of the area. The topography and current quality of access infrastructure makes it challenging for local people to make active travel to local services.
- 2.6 An application to the Sustrans "Places for Everyone" fund would seek 100% funding of the development stages – up to concept designs – including consultants fees for technical

studies, community engagement and importantly the Sustrans fund would provide and pay for a full-time Project Officer to support the project. This fund takes a holistic approach to whole place improvement and there is a clear opportunity for all partners to work together hand in hand with local communities and deliver levels of change beyond organisational remits or individual project budgets.

- 2.7 As a result of the COVID pandemic health and wellbeing inequalities have become more apparent. It has greatly impacted on health especially mental health and social isolation in Inverclyde. It is likely that more people will be encouraged to continue to participate in “safe physical activity” such as walking and cycling in their local areas and making use of available greenspace. Enhancing and developing these opportunities has the potential to improve the quality of life, creating a healthy and vibrant Inverclyde, which will in turn encourage greater investment.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:
- a. Supports the Environment Partnership Action Group to take the lead in developing an Inverclyde Green Connections Project and
  - b. Supports the proposal to apply for Sustrans ‘Places for Everyone’ funding

**Aubrey Fawcett**  
**Chair, Programme Board**  
**Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Inverclyde's Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-22 was approved by Inverclyde Alliance in December 2017. There are four strategic partnerships who report to Inverclyde Alliance, Population Partnership, Environment Partnership, Cultural Partnership and the Strategic Implementation Group for Inequalities have all been established and meet on a regular basis.
- 4.2 The Lead Officers from the four strategic priority groups of the LOIP have identified a single project that has the potential to provide multiple benefits: economic, social, and environmental. The project will connect people, place and nature and the working title of the project is 'Inverclyde Green Connections' and will be led by the Environment Partnership.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 The vision for the project is to: "Improve quality of life, local community environments and active travel for everyday journeys in order to encourage investment, repopulation, and improved health and well-being."
- 5.2 The aim of the project is to take forward important and identified elements of relevant strategies including active travel, green network and active living and develop this through bespoke and co-ordinated approach to community participation and local place design. Aspiring to deliver added social value, the project will also seek opportunities to develop local skills and employment, and will pursue measures related to social inclusion, healthy lifestyles and active travel behaviour change.
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- 5.5 An application to the Sustrans "Places for Everyone" fund would seek 100% funding of the development stages – up to concept designs – including consultants fees for technical studies, community engagement and importantly the Sustrans fund would provide and pay for a full-time Project Officer to support the project. This fund takes a holistic approach to whole place improvement and there is a clear opportunity for all partners to work together hand in hand with local communities and deliver levels of change beyond organisational remits or individual project budgets.
- 5.6 As a result of the COVID pandemic health and wellbeing inequalities have become more apparent. It has greatly impacted on health especially mental health and social isolation in Inverclyde. It is likely that more people will be encouraged to continue to participate in "safe physical activity" such as walking and cycling in their local areas and making use of available greenspace. Enhancing and developing these opportunities has the potential to improve the quality of life, creating a healthy and vibrant Inverclyde, which will in turn encourage greater investment.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 None

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1
- [Inverclyde Active Travel Strategy \(2018\)](#)
  - Preliminary Design for NCN75 Path Upgrade works – Lady Octavia Park to Kilmalcolm
  - Inverclyde Greenspace Strategy (2007-2017)
  - Inverclyde Green Network Study (2008)
  - Area Renewal and the Inverclyde Green Network (2010)
  - Area Renewal and the Green Network: Concept to Case Study (2013)
  - Integrated Green Infrastructure Design Study for Spango Valley (2012)
  - Inverclyde Green Network Opportunities Mapping (2013)
  - Greenock East-Central Masterplanning Study, 2014
  - Green Network Spatial Strategy for Upper Greenock Strategic Development Area (2016)
  - Clydeplan Green Network Spatial Strategies: Green Network Delivery Study 2016
  - A Blueprint for the Green Network, 2020 (draft)