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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>	<b>Steven McNab Head of Organisational Development, Policy and Communications</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Reinvested Funding to tackle poverty and multiple deprivation in Inverclyde</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Inverclyde Alliance Board with an update of the proposed reinvested £750,000 funding from Inverclyde Council and the supplementary £250,000 provided from the HSCP, on the back of the Coronavirus pandemic.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 In March 2020 Inverclyde Council had agreed to reinvest £750,000 funding to the localities with greatest inequalities, the IJB also agreed to supplement this funding with an additional £250,000 to tackle deprivation and poverty, unemployment and homelessness and drug and alcohol issues.
- 2.2 The population of Inverclyde has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, with 375 confirmed deaths, which is higher than the Scottish average, many families in our communities have been affected by loss and grief. There are emerging linkages between people living in areas deprivation who may be disproportionately affected by covid-19, further research into the reasons and impact of this will be considered.
- 2.3 The Covid -19 pandemic has had a detrimental effect on those communities who were already struggling financially, where health inequalities were greatest and where there were issues and challenges with mental health and isolation. The £750,000 will be used to provide financial and service support these communities across Inverclyde, especially in areas that have been affected the most. This funding will enable Inverclyde Council to take the strongest possible steps to prevent the coronavirus from deepening the poverty and inequalities that already exist in the area, the next steps will be more important than those we have already begun to put in place.
- 2.4 The £750,000 funding will be made available to implement initiatives on an Inverclyde wide basis. These initiatives will be developed by officers and a report will be presented to Inverclyde Council Policy and Resources Committee in August 2020 and then to the next meeting of the Alliance Board as part of the locality planning progress reports.

- 2.5 In reviewing the impact of service delivery through the immediate lock down the HSCP has to consider services that will see an increased demand as a result of COVID-19 mitigation measures and the supplementary £250,000 will be used support inequalities.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- a) Notes the content of the briefing; and,
- b) Approves, the £750,000 previously allocated for the localities with greatest inequalities for locality plans to be used to provide financial and service support to these communities across Inverclyde, especially in areas that have been affected the most by the coronavirus. This funding will enable Inverclyde Council to take the strongest possible steps to prevent the coronavirus from deepening the poverty and inequalities that already exist in the area.
- c) In reviewing the impact of service delivery through the immediate Covid-19 lockdown the IJB will use the £250,000 supplementary funding to help address health inequalities.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In March 2020 Inverclyde Council had agreed to reinvest £750,000 funding to the localities with greatest inequalities, the IJB also agreed to supplement this funding with an additional £250,000 to tackle deprivation and poverty, unemployment and homelessness and drug and alcohol issues.
- 4.2 The population of Inverclyde has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, with 375 confirmed deaths, which is higher than the Scottish average, many families in our communities have been affected by loss and grief. There are emerging linkages between people living in areas deprivation who may be disproportionately affected by covid-19, further research into the reasons and impact of this will be considered.
- 4.3 The Covid -19 pandemic has had a detrimental effect on those communities who were already struggling financially, where health inequalities were greatest and where there were issues and challenges with mental health and isolation.

## 5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The £750,000 will be used to provide financial and service support these communities across Inverclyde, especially in areas that have been affected the most. This funding will enable Inverclyde Council to take the strongest possible steps to prevent the coronavirus from deepening the poverty and inequalities that already exist in the area, the next steps will be more important than those we have already begun to put in place.
- 5.2 The £750,000 funding will be made available to implement initiatives on an Inverclyde wide basis. These initiatives will be developed by officers and a report will be presented to Inverclyde Council Policy and Resources Committee in August 2020 and then to the next meeting of the Alliance Board as part of the locality planning progress reports.
- 5.3 In reviewing the impact of service delivery through the immediate lock down the HSCP has to consider services that will see an increased demand as a result of COVID-19 mitigation measures and the supplementary £250,000 will be used to help address health inequalities.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Legal: None

Finance:

The annual allocation is £750,000 2020/21 will be a part year due to the lead in time for decisions and implementation. Any unspent sums will be added to the Anti -Poverty Earmarked Reserve operated by the Council and carried forward for future use.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

Personnel: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Repopulation: The provision of funding to tackle poverty within Inverclyde has clear links to the work of the repopulation group and its efforts to make Inverclyde a more desirable place in which to live.

## 7.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 None

## 8.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None