



Briefing note on Alliance Board Papers for 15th June 2020

Introduction

The next meeting of the Alliance Board which was due to take place on the 15th of June 2020 has been cancelled however, there is still information that we need to provide to the members of the Alliance Board. The reports which would have been on the agenda for the meeting on the 15th of June will be posted on the Inverclyde Council website and the purpose of this briefing note is to provide members with additional background information on each report.

Impact of Covid -19 on the Inverclyde Alliance Board

The population of Inverclyde has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, with 375 total confirmed deaths, this includes the 112 total deaths registered in Inverclyde where coronavirus (COVID-19) was mentioned on the death certificate. (5 June 2020). Therefore, many families in our communities have been affected by loss and grief. There are emerging linkages between people living in areas deprivation have been disproportionately affected by covid-19, further research into the reasons and impact of this will be considered.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on all the partners involved in the Alliance both in terms of the demand for services and the impact on their workforce, it has changed how the Alliance Board and its partners deliver services, communicate and engage with each other and with the community of Inverclyde.

The decision was taken in March 2020 to cancel the Alliance Board meeting to protect the members and implement the government's social distance guidance. The proposed reports were emailed to Alliance Board seeking written comments and approval.

Since the Alliance Board was cancelled in March no further partnership action groups or sub groups of the Alliance have met with the exception of the LOIP Programme Board on 20 May 2020. The Programme Board had a virtual meeting to govern and monitor progress of the priority groups.

The transition towards recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic will look different for the Alliance Board and the Partnership Action Groups, there will be a continued effort to build locality planning through community cohesion that has been established and engaging people in local democracy and priorities for their community using a variety of different mediums of communication, including Webex, social media and local volunteers have supported the community.

The LOIP will be reviewed with the lead officers of each priority action group to ensure that the outcomes and expected impact meets the needs of the local community, many of these review and planning conversations will take place virtually to continue to ensure social distancing measures are adhered and to protect the community and the workforce.



It is the ambition of the Alliance Board to host a meeting in September/October 2020 likely to take place using a digital platform such as Webex and a full agenda will be published in due course.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

1. Notes the content of the briefing; and,
2. Approves, as outlined in Section 8:
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.



Reports circulated to the Alliance Board

Below is a list of the reports which have been circulated.

1. Inverclyde Local Outcome improvement Plan Quarterly Progress Report
2. Inverclyde Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report 2019/20
3. Locality Planning Progress Report
4. Mid-Year population Estimates
5. Child Poverty Local Action Report 2019/20
6. Inverclyde Green Connections Proposal
7. Covid 19 pandemic recovery plan
8. Reinvested Funding to tackle poverty and multiple deprivation in Inverclyde



1. Inverclyde Local Outcome Improvement Plan Quarterly Progress Report

This report is produced for every meeting of the Alliance Board. The purpose of the report is to provide the Alliance Board with an overview of the progress that has been made during the last quarter in the delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).

The LOIP contains three priorities and these are Population, Inequalities and Environment, Culture and Heritage. This report provides details of the progress made by the Cultural Partnership and the Environment Partnership.

Flash reporting is the method of reporting progress that is used for the LOIP. The purpose of the flash report is to provide a high level overview of the key achievements during the last quarter, the challenges faced during the last quarter and details of the key actions that will be taken forward in the next quarter. Flash reports have been produced by the Culture and Heritage Partnership and the Environment Partnership and are contained within Appendix 1 of the report.

The report provides details of the progress made between February and April 2020. It should be noted that the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 has had a significant impact on the progress that has been made. The Priority Partnerships have been unable to meet and this has had an impact on the progress that has been made.

Population

There were two reports published in March and April 2020 providing the latest data and information on Inverclyde midyear population estimates and the population projections, a briefing session was delivered to elected members on 1 June 2020 and the full in-depth report is outlined later in this briefing note. Whilst we have the ongoing issue of overall population decline year on year due to more deaths than births, it is encouraging to note that there was net positive inward migration. The Repopulation Group recognises the role played by the wider community planning initiatives to reduce poverty, improve health and increase life expectations and works in support of this.

Environment

A range of events to promote walking and cycling were provided by The Bothy (Cycling UK) and Community Tracks. This area of work is particularly important in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A Review of vacant and derelict land sites was completed. This will inform the implementation of the Greenspace strategy once it has been completed.

It is worth highlighting to the Alliance Board that the Environment Partnership has now achieved most of its current activities and will now be looking at identifying new actions and timescales. These will be included in the next progress report to the Alliance Board.

Culture and Heritage

It is worth bringing to the attention of the Alliance Board that the Culture and Heritage Partnership has responded to the Covid-19 pandemic in a number of ways. For example, Public libraries have continued to offer services online during the pandemic, including eBooks and audiobooks, Bookbug and Crafternoon sessions, online book groups and techy tips, and various other promotions including VE Day. Outreach Education Packs have been developed and sent to primary schools and shared with teachers. The packs provide home based activities and focus on learning about local heritage using the collections at the Watt Institution.

The other key achievement of the Culture and Heritage Partnership that is worth highlighting is that in February, the inaugural Inverclyde Film Festival took place. 19 events were held across 3 days with participation from 747 people, a particularly good figure considering the pandemic had already started.

2. Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report 2019/20

The Alliance Board is required to produce an annual report that provides details of the progress made in the delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-22.

The annual report provides details of the progress that has been made during 2019/20 in achieving the three strategic priorities which are population, inequalities and the environment and culture.

The annual report contains a review of each strategic priority. This include details of key achievements made in 2019/20, projects and actions that will be delivered in 2020/21 and performance indicators.

Below is a summary of performance in relation to each strategic priority.

Population

- There has been a decrease in the population of Inverclyde from 78,150 in 2018 to 77,800.
- Civilian in-migration has increased from 1,470 in 2018 to 1,610 in 2019. While civilian out-migration has decreased from 1,650 in 2018 to 1,520 in 2019.
- Gross weekly pay has not changed from 2018 and remains £543.80.
- The Percentage of Business Gateway start-ups per 10,000 population is 18.3 which is Higher than the Scottish average of 16.7 and an increase from the previous year's rate of 12.8 (2017/18)
- One of the key achievements of the Population Partnership in 2019/20 was the development of an Inverclyde Repopulation Strategic Investment Framework and Action Plan which has the overarching goal of growing the population of Inverclyde by 2025 through improving the employment, housing and infrastructure offer.



Inverclyde Alliance

- A new website called “Discover Inverclyde” website was developed which promotes Inverclyde as a place to visit, live and do business and support events.
- In 2020/21 the Population Partnership will develop an Inverclyde Skills Plan, grow the housing market and develop a business growth marketing plan.

Inequalities

- The percentage of workless households in Inverclyde is 19.2% which is higher than the Scottish figure of 17.1%.
- The percentage of young people aged 16-24 who are unemployed has increased from 5.7% in 2018 to 8% in 2019.
- The percentage of Inverclyde datazones that fall into the 15% most deprived in Scotland has marginally increased from 4% in 2016 to 4.02% in 2020.
- One of the key achievements in 2019/20 was the progress made with the implementation of locality planning. Locality Action Plans were developed for all 6 localities in Inverclyde and Communications and Engagement Groups were established in all localities except Greenock West and Gourock. The first meeting of the group had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- In 2020/21 the key areas of focus will be the establishment of Locality Planning Groups and measures to tackle poor health and inequalities.

Culture and Environment

- The total amount of derelict land in Inverclyde has decreased from 155.27ha to 151.35 ha.
- There has been a reduction in the number of deliberate secondary fires.
- There has been a reduction in cultural engagements by adults from 91% in 2018 to 87% in 2019.
- One of the Cultural Partnerships biggest achievements was the re-opening of the Watt Institution to the public on 22 November 2019 after a £2million refurbishment. The complex includes the McLean Museum and Art Gallery, the Watt Library and Watt Hall.
- The Environment Partnership completed a review of vacant and derelict land sites in order to identify opportunities to plug gaps in greenspace provision for the benefit of the community. This review will inform the development of a Greenspace strategy.
- In 2020/21 the key areas of focus will be the development of a new visitor centre at Greenock Ocean Terminal and the development of a Community Food Growing Strategy.

3. Locality Planning Progress Report

This report provides an update on the progress that has been made with the implementation of locality planning during the last quarter (February – April 2020).

The Alliance Board should be aware that:

- Locality Action Plans had already been developed for Port Glasgow, Greenock East and Central and Greenock South and South West. During the last quarter, the remaining locality action plans for Kilmacolm and Quarriers Village, Greenock West and Gourock and Inverkip and Wemyss Bay were developed. All six locality plans have now been published on the Council's web site.
- The model for locality planning that is being implemented involves establishing a Communications and Engagement Group in each of the six localities. The Communications and Engagement Groups will be responsible for developing local communications and engagement plans, implementation of these plans, and embedding involvement and engagement with staff and local communities as part of our day to day business.
- Communications and Engagement Groups had already been established in Kilmacolm and Quarriers Village and Port Glasgow. During the last quarter, Communication and Engagement Groups were established in Greenock East and Central, Greenock South and South West and Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. The first meeting of the Greenock West and Gourock group had been due to take place on the 2nd of April but had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- During the last quarter plans were made to pilot the establishment of a Locality Planning Group in Port Glasgow on the 1st of April. This meeting also had to be cancelled due to the Covid-10 pandemic.
- The next steps for taking forward locality planning are to revise the working agreement between Inverclyde Alliance, the HSCP and the third sector organisations who are running the Communication and Engagement Groups and Locality Planning Groups on our behalf. Work will also begin on developing guidance for locality planning and we will look at using platforms such as Facebook to allow us to engage with communities while the Communications and Engagement Groups are unable to meet.

4. Mid-Year population Estimates (2019) and Population Projections (2018)

The National Records of Scotland (NRS) mid-year (2019) population estimates published on 30 April 2020 and the new population projections for Scottish areas, published on 24 March 2020, provide the data behind Inverclyde's estimated and projected population.

The population of Inverclyde as at 30 June 2019 was estimated to be 77,800. This is a decrease of 350 people (-0.4%) compared to the 2018 mid-year population estimate (78,150) and the second largest population decrease in Scotland. By contrast, Scotland's population is estimated to have increased by 0.5% between mid-2018 and mid-2019 to a record high of 5,463,300.

Inverclyde is one of 8 council areas estimated to have had a population decrease between mid-2018 and mid-2019. Argyll and Bute had the largest decrease (-0.5%), whilst the City of Edinburgh; East Lothian and Midlothian areas had the highest population growth (all +1.2%). Appendix 1 shows the population change across Scotland between mid-2018 and mid-2019.

The population decrease in Inverclyde between mid-2018 and mid-2019 is almost solely attributable to negative natural change (-410) due to 1,071 deaths compared to 661 births during the period. Chart 1 (below) shows that over the past 10 years the number of births in Inverclyde has decreased by almost 18%, (-143) whilst the number of deaths has remained fairly constant, increasing by just 7% (+ 74) between 2008/09 and 2018/19.

This NRS data population projections for all Scottish areas up to 2028, is produced every two years and is calculated in a different way to the mid-year population estimates. Projections are trend based, which means assumptions for future levels of births, deaths and migration are based on observed levels over the previous five years, whereas mid-year estimates are based on the actual number of births and deaths and estimated migration in the past year. This differing methodology results in variations in population data e.g. the 2019 mid-year population estimate for Inverclyde is 77,800, whilst the population projection estimate for 2019 (using 2018 population as the base year) is 77,693, 107 lower than the mid-year estimate. Population projection data should therefore be interpreted with a degree of caution, bearing in mind its limitations. The comparison of the mid-year (2019) population estimate for Inverclyde with the projected population estimate (2019) would appear to suggest that the population projection estimates for Inverclyde up to 2028 are unduly pessimistic.

Fourteen council areas, including Inverclyde, are expected to have a population decrease. In addition, the projected rate of decline in Inverclyde is more severe than previously forecast, with a projected fall of (-6.1%) to 73,418 by 2028; this is -2.8% lower than the NRS 2016-based population projection.

Inverclyde is one of 27 councils expected to have negative natural change by 2028, accounting for -5.1% of our projected population decline. It is estimated that by 2028 there will have been 3,976 more deaths than births in Inverclyde (10,361 deaths compared to 6,385 births).



Inverclyde Alliance

The age structure of Inverclyde population is projected to change, with the only growth expected to be in the numbers of those aged 75 and older (16%). The percentage of the population that are children aged 0 to 15 years is projected to fall by more than twice the Scottish average, -14.2%, compared to -6% in Scotland. The LOIP Population Partnership will consider these latest population statistics and agree any additional actions in connection with these, including conducting further research be carried out, building on previous key local consultations relating to depopulation and outlining the need for emerging resources to progress specific action around these three issues.



5. Child Poverty Local Action Report

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires all local authorities and relevant Health Boards across Scotland to reduce child poverty. The Act requires that each local authority and relative NHS Health Board must jointly prepare an annual Child Poverty Local Action Reports (CPLAR's). The annual reports must set out the activity undertaken during the reporting period and those planned going forward to meet the 2030 targets.

Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action Report 2019/20 report will include:-

Data on Child Poverty within Inverclyde including demographics, SIMD data highlighting Income and Employment Deprivation, Working age people with no qualifications: 17 – 21 year olds enrolling in higher education and percentage of children living below 60% median, before housing costs (based on data from DWP and HMRC)

Governance and Accountability – Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group is responsible to collate and coordinate the actions and report on the local activity around child poverty and the Inverclyde Local Child Poverty Action Report. The Inverclyde Alliance Board, supported by the Programme Board provides, governance leadership and scrutiny to the work of the Child Poverty Action Group.

Actions, plans and priorities – Plan showing priorities within Inverclyde identified by collaborative working with NHS partners, priorities being Apprenticeships, Digital Inclusion, Cost of the School Day, Food insecurity, Housing, employment for 16 – 24 year olds, Workforce Development, Awareness, Support. Progress Report from Actions included within 2018/19 Local Action Report. New actions linked to the Drivers of Poverty – this is work in progress due to COVID-19 service response

COVID-19 – Local Impact – Inverclyde's response to COVID-19 in supporting the community.

The full Child Poverty report will be reported to the Alliance Board for approval early in the autumn 2020.

6. Inverclyde Green Connections Proposal

This report is seeking the support for the Environment Partnership to take the lead in developing a local project and take forward an opportunity to apply for Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' funding. The Lead Officers from the four strategic priority groups of the LOIP 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'.

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."

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.

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.

The project will work with local people living next to these project 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.

Some of the proposed project areas have ageing infrastructure, vacant properties and derelict land which also increases the challenges for people to access green space and healthy activities.

An application from Inverclyde Alliance – Environment Partnership 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.

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



Inverclyde Alliance

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. The communities will be involved in decisions on how to improve their local connections and improve the place they live. This bid is an opportunity to deliver change that helps meets their needs and the needs of Inverclyde.



Inverclyde Alliance

7. Covid 19 pandemic recovery plan

Inverclyde Council Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee agreed on 5 May 2020 to structures and reporting arrangements to progress recovery of Council Services and the restoration of more normal social and economic activities across the Inverclyde community as a whole.

The Council's Corporate Resilience Management Team (CRMT) has met regularly throughout the current pandemic and The HSCP has parallel and linked processes with a thrice weekly Local Resilience Management Team (LRMT) which reports through both the Council and Health Board structures. The two processes are aligned through cross representation. These will include the following aspects:

The level of current service provision, including tasks which may not have been previously part of the service's remit some of which may continue beyond any initial removal of lockdown; examples would include the Humanitarian Assistance Centre and enhanced support to businesses including financial support and employability related activities.;

The Council in collaboration with HSCP and CVS colleagues will continue to operate the Humanitarian Aid Centre for those residents on the shielding and non-shielding lists.

The stages and actions required to bring any services currently not being fully delivered back up;

Any new ways of working brought in as a response to the pandemic which might be worth continuing, for example home working. Heads of Service in collaboration with the IT Service are working on putting interim arrangements in place to maximise home working;

The potential impacts of what is likely to be a staged removal of lock down restrictions. This would include the potential need to reduce occupancy of council buildings to maintain a level of social distancing.

The need to put in place processes for quickly returning to an incident response footing should the need arise as a result of a second wave of infection,

Consideration of any follow up required on actions taken during the pandemic

Consideration of any processes introduced during the pandemic response which might provide longer term streamlining opportunities

Horizon scanning for any likely additional duties likely to be forthcoming, for example contact tracing or additional port health requirements.

The HSCP has to consider services that will see an increased demand as a result of COVID-19 mitigation measures. To do this effectively, it cannot simply return to previous ways of working. The HSCP needs to understand the changes it has made to services, assess the risks and opportunities in continuing with these changes and apply learning from the COVID response to its recovery planning.



Inverclyde Alliance

The Council is responsible under the Civil Contingency Act for leading the recovery phase following an incident. This guidance is mainly aimed at situations where there has been a point incident, for example a major fire, where the incident response has been led by one of the emergency services and is then handed over to the Council at an appropriate juncture to lead the recovery phase. There would then be a Recovery Working Group (RWG) initially involving the agencies involved in the response phase with further representation and sub-groups being enlisted as the recovery phase develops.

In the specific context of a pandemic response as we have seen the multi-agency response is mainly run at a National and Regional level with the local response being co-ordinated by the Council, Health Board and HSCP. The response phase is obviously also considerably longer and effectively overlaps with the recovery. It is therefore appropriate to set up the RWG to run in parallel with the ongoing response as many of the issues which will need to be addressed in the recovery have already become clear.

The initial phase of developing a recovery plan is the completion of a Community Impact Assessment. This looks at four main areas of impact, Environmental, Infrastructure, Humanitarian and Economic. There will obviously be some impacts on the first two areas, for example potential increases in fly-tipping and the need to re-establish recycling together with a need to get the public transport systems back fully operational. It can fairly confidently stated however that the main elements of recovery will fall under the Humanitarian Assistance (this would include health aspects and education) and Economic headings. The membership and focus of the RWG and any sub-groups should therefore reflect this while not ignoring the first Environmental & Infrastructure aspects.

It is proposed that officers carry out a high level initial Impact Assessment focussing on Humanitarian and Economic aspects. This would be a document which would be kept under review by the RWG and would not be intended to constrain that group's actions but merely to give the group a starting point for their discussions. It would also be for the RWG to agree its terms of reference and any sub-groups and their membership. The following is a suggested starting membership:

Inverclyde Council Chief Executive (or nominated Corporate Director) [Chair]

3 Corporate Directors

Police Scotland Area Commander

NHS GG & C Representative

Inverclyde Council's Chief Financial Officer

Third Sector Representative (CVS)

Business Representative

RSL Representative

Council CRMT Chair



Inverclyde Alliance

Corporate Communications Representative

Secretariat (CCS)



Inverclyde Alliance

8. Reinvested Funding to tackle poverty and multiple deprivation in Inverclyde

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. 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. In reviewing the impact of service delivery through the immediate lock down it appears that the IJB will require to use the £250,000 supplementary funding to support the increase in demand of the HSCP.

Based on local and national evidence of need and what will have the greatest impact and also reflecting the services that Inverclyde Council provided during the lock down the reinvested £750,000 funding will continue to support communities most affected by the Covid – 19 pandemic. The £750,000 will 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, the next steps will be more important than those we have already begun to put in place.

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 meet this new demand.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

1. Notes the content of the briefing; and,
2. Approves, as outlined
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.