



Inverclyde Alliance

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 5b**

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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Alliance Board</b>	<b>Date: 18 January 2021</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Ruth Binks Corporate Director, Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Alana Ward</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Local Outcome Improvement Plan Cultural Partnership – quarterly progress report</b>	

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Inverclyde Alliance with an update on delivery of activity which supports the Culture and Heritage priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 This report provides details of the progress made between August and October 2020 in implementing the Culture and Heritage priority within the LOIP.
- 2.2 The key achievements of the Cultural Partnership this quarter include:
- The Watt Institution submitted a successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop strongly inclusive engagement and outreach heritage activities in Inverclyde in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - Inverclyde Council working with CVS Inverclyde successfully obtained £26,000 in funding from Creative Scotland to establish and run a network for local creative practitioners and businesses. The project has recently recruited a Creative Industries Co-ordinator and the post-holder, based at CVS Inverclyde, started in Sep 2020.
  - The Great Place Scheme Project Officer is working alongside heritage groups to sensitively document the pandemic in Inverclyde to record and archive personal stories and experiences for future generations.
  - The *Galoshans* consortium delivered a smaller scale festival for 2020 to help the community reconnect, celebrate and shine a positive light on Inverclyde proving much needed entertainment and fun whilst it deals with and recovers from Covid-19.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Inverclyde Alliance notes the quarterly progress update provided.

**Ruth Binks**

**Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Inverclyde's LOIP was formally agreed by the Alliance Board on the 11 December 2017. This progress report provides details of the progress that has been made in implementing the LOIP during the last quarter.
- 4.2 Oversight and delivery of the LOIP priorities sits with
- Population Partnership,
  - Environment Partnership,
  - Cultural Partnership, and
  - Strategic Inequalities Group
- 4.3 Recovery plans have also been developed at a Council and Partnership level to ensure collaborative actions are progressed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Cultural Partnership is supporting delivery of these plans.

## 5.0 Cultural Partnership Update

- 5.1 The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent UK lockdown has made the continuation of cultural activity very difficult. However, group members are continuing to promote activity online where possible and appropriate, and a great deal of work is still going on behind the scenes. With venues beginning to re-open on a limited basis, the creative and cultural sector in Inverclyde is getting used to the 'new normal' ways of working.

Some of the highlights of this quarter include:

- The Watt Institution submitted a successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop strongly inclusive engagement and outreach heritage activities in Inverclyde in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Watt will receive £230,000 to work on re-interpreting the collections (particularly to decolonise these) and will improve all forms of engagement.
- Inverclyde Council working with CVS Inverclyde successfully obtained £26,000 in funding from Creative Scotland to establish and run a network for local creative practitioners and businesses. The project has recently recruited a Creative Industries Co-ordinator and the post-holder, based at CVS Inverclyde, started in Sep 2020.
- The Great Place Scheme Project Officer is working alongside heritage groups to sensitively document the pandemic in Inverclyde to record and archive personal stories and experiences for future generations.
- The *Galoshans* consortium delivered a smaller scale festival for 2020 to help the community reconnect, celebrate and shine a positive light on Inverclyde proving much needed entertainment and fun whilst it deals with and recovers from Covid-19.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

Legal: none at present

Finance: none at present

Human Resources: none at present

Equality and Diversity: none at present

Repopulation: repopulation remains a key priority within the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Inequalities: the Locality Partnerships will be working specifically to tackle inequalities on a geographic basis.

## **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

n/a


## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**



Inverclyde's Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-2022

**Cultural Partnership - LOIP 10 Year Vision**

- There will be increased attendance at cultural events and places of culture.

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status	Tolerance Level
<b>Heritage Strategy</b>	ICP to commission development, publication and promotion of a Heritage Strategy for Inverclyde.	Production of a long term strategy for the development of heritage in Inverclyde to help the ICP plan effectively for the future and gain greater leverage with external funding bodies.  Partnership working to develop,	Tender for heritage consultant Sept 2018; Contract award Oct/Nov 2018; Anticipated submission Jan/Feb 2019.  Strategy and associated action plan are published, promoted and feed into ICP's forward planning mechanisms. Spring 2019	Action plan priorities and objectives taken forward with identified outcomes being successfully implemented.	<p>The Heritage Strategy was approved by Inverclyde Alliance on 17 June 2019 and was formally launched on 5 Feb 2020 (delayed from Nov 2019 due to General Election) to tie in with the re-opening of the Watt Institution.</p> <p>Work has begun on a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for funds to support the building of capacity across the heritage sector in Inverclyde. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, NLHF general funding streams have been temporarily halted and all funds diverted to mitigating Covid-19 impacts on the heritage sector. At the time of writing there is no indication when these funds may re-open. Progress reports on this bid will be brought to future Programme Board/Alliance Board meetings.</p> <p>In July 2020, NLHF solicited a bid from Inverclyde Council to develop strongly inclusive engagement and outreach heritage activities in Inverclyde, using the Watt Institution as a key heritage asset, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The bid for a project entitled <i>Watt Voices</i> was successful and the Watt will work on re-interpreting its collections,</p>		

		enhance and deliver the strategy building a network and legacy.	onwards.		(particularly to decolonise these), and will improve all forms of engagement, community, digital etc.		
Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status	Tolerance Level
<b>Arts and Creativity Strategy</b>	<p>Inverclyde's Arts &amp; Creativity Strategy launched in 2017 but did not contain an Action Plan to take the Strategy forward.</p> <p>Arts &amp; Creativity sub-group implemented with representation from a range of partner organisations and individual</p>	<p>Arts &amp; Creativity Strategy and action plan being implemented with actions being delivered;</p> <p>Arts sub-group feeding in to overall Cultural Partnership and cultural delivery plan for the area.</p>	<p>Recruitment of Arts Co-ordinator for Inverclyde, funded by remaining Place Partnership funds.</p> <p>Maintain regular meetings of the Arts &amp; Creativity sub-group, ensuring representation across Inverclyde CPP.</p>	<p>Meetings take place consistently and attendance by all partners remains high.</p> <p>Regular review of members of partnership.</p>	<p>Arts Co-ordinator appointed March 2019 and contract extended until at least January 2021; Arts sub-group established Sep 2019; sub-group currently working on producing an action plan to sit alongside Arts &amp; Creativity Strategy. Updates on progress will be brought to future meetings of IOIP Programme Board.</p> <p>In March 2020, Inverclyde Council working with CVS Inverclyde and Creative Inverclyde, successfully obtained c. £26K in funding from Creative Scotland to establish and run a network for local creative practitioners and businesses. The project has recently recruited a Creative Industries Co-ordinator and the post-holder, based at CVS Inverclyde, started in Sep 2020.</p> <p>RIG Arts have been working hard on various project including <i>Galoshans</i> (see below); the Watt Augmented Reality Heritage Trail which is now available; a Sustrans/ Inverclyde Council project to engage the community in a potential piece of public art on the NCN75 at the waterfront; and moving premises.</p>		


	artists.						
Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status	Tolerance Level
<b>Great Place Scheme</b>	Inverclyde awarded c. £200K under HLF's Great Place Scheme to undertake activities aimed to strengthen networks between heritage, civic and community organisations, enhancing the role heritage plays in the future of each place participating in the scheme.		<p>The approved purposes of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Project Officer to be appointed to project manage all aspects of GPS and associated budget, and link together existing heritage assets in Inverclyde.</li> <li>-Young Heritage Apprentices - 2 consecutive apprentices</li> </ul>	Community engagement and participation in heritage will increase; will be visible through higher levels of cultural participation reported in the SHS.	<p>Project formally extended to December 2020. Project Officer has re-shaped the remaining months and funds of the Great Place Scheme in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>HA1 appointed through 2018 "The Recruit" programme. Placement finished and qualification obtained. HA2 appointed through 2019 "The Recruit" programme. Placement &amp; College work ongoing.</p>	 	

			<p>appointed through Inverclyde Council's "The Recruit" programme to work at the Watt Institution on heritage activities.</p> <p>-Artists residences: commission 3 artists to animate spaces and places, celebrate 'lost' heritage and input into proposed public realm improvements.</p>		<p>1<sup>st</sup> residency = Surge performance theatre at <i>Galoshans</i> 2018.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> residency = Yvonne Lyon &amp; Annie Mackay arts &amp; music residency to celebrate James Watt bi-centenary in 2019. <b>When Art Tells Tales:</b> Intergenerational project which facilitated the creation of music and art inspired by James Watt.</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> residency = GPS working with Sustrans on a collaborative project to commission a piece of art and related community engagement on the National Cycle Network by the waterfront. <b>RIG Arts</b> working with artist <b>Tragic O'Hara</b> have been commissioned to take this project forward.</p> <p>See above for more information regarding the Heritage Strategy.</p>		
					<p>The GPS team are working on reshaping the activity plan and remaining months of the project. It is highly unlikely</p>		



			<p>-Inverclyde Heritage Strategy: produce a long-term strategy for the development of heritage in Inverclyde to help the Cultural Partnership plan effectively for the future.</p> <p>Heritage Events: engage large numbers of people in heritage activities through a collaboration of Watt Institution team, commissioned artists and Heritage</p>	<p>that large-scale heritage events will be able to go ahead as planned.</p> <p>The GPS Officer is also working alongside heritage groups to sensitively document the pandemic in Inverclyde to record and archive personal stories and experiences for future generations.</p> <p>Other work includes increasing heritage engagement through informal and formal learning programmes; planning and developing family activities such as “Where’s Watty” bear hunt trail at the Watt Institution for the October break; contribution to Galoshans on ‘magic and spells’ in the Watt Institution (using the Egyptological collection); developing virtual memory boxes for local care homes; arranging oral history training for various volunteers; and Doors Open Day at the Watt Institution.</p>		
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Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status	Tolerance Level
<b>Festivals and Events</b>	Develop calendar of current and emerging AC&H festivals and events including those within individual communities.	Work to develop, create, deliver and support AC&H events across Inverclyde, both by ICP members themselves, and by building capacity within communities.  Effective use of public spaces and venues to support co-ordination of	Apprentices.		<p>The <i>Galoshans</i> Consortium agreed to pool resources to deliver a smaller scale <i>Galoshans 2020</i> Festival utilising existing groups, current projects and funding already secured. It was agreed that <i>Galoshans 2020</i> could help the community reconnect, celebrate and shine a positive light on Inverclyde providing much needed entertainment and fun whilst it deals with and recovers from COVID 19. The festival recently published its 2020 programme: <a href="https://www.galoshansfestival.com/programme-2020">https://www.galoshansfestival.com/programme-2020</a></p> <p>New tourism website <i>Discover Inverclyde</i> is going from strength to strength. The site has a facility for business listings and any info or content can be sent to IC CC/Tourism team to be loaded on to the site.</p> <p>Wyllie100 is being planned to celebrate the artist's centenary in 2021. Arts Co-ordinator working with Wyllie project manager on plans.</p>		

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<p><b>Key Cultural Venues</b></p>	<p>Central Greenock has 2 major cultural venues: the Watt Institution, and the Beacon Arts Centre, and a third which will open in early 2021 - the Wyllie Gallery.</p>	<p>All 3 centres are represented at the Cultural Partnership and will work together to maximize cultural opportunities for the people of, and visitors to, Inverclyde.</p>		<p>Each centre will report increasing visitor numbers.</p> <p>Cultural participation in Inverclyde will increase.</p>	<p>The <u>Watt Institution</u> re-opened to the public on 22 November 2019 after an almost 3 year closure for refurbishment. The Watt welcomed over 8,000 visitors in the 4 months before it had to close again due to the pandemic. The Watt re-opened again on a limited basis on from 15 July. The museum, art gallery and Watt Hall are open but the Watt Library remains closed for now due to government guidance. The service is currently panning programmng for 2020, as well as the new <i>Watt Voices</i> project (see above).</p> <p>The <u>Beacon Arts Centre</u> – The Beacon is one of 20 venues across Scotland to benefit from the Scottish government’s £12.5m Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund, designed to support performing arts venues that cannot yet re-open due to the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Beacon will receive £114K from the fund, which, along with funding from Creative Scotland and Inverclyde Council, will help to reduce the threat of insolvency, enable development and delivery of activity, allow for staff to return from furlough, and increase commissioning and employment opportunities for freelance creatives.</p> <p>While The Beacon remains closed, various outdoor performances by Scottish Opera have taken place with great success. Creative learning, including dance and drama</p>		

					<p>activities, is all still being offered online. There are exciting plans afoot as part of <i>Galoshans</i>, with a filmed performance of Dracula at the Mid Kirk, with specially composed music, on the agenda.</p> <p>The contractors building the Ocean Terminal have gone into administration due to Covid-19. Officers continue working to support the <u>George Wyllie Foundation</u> with forward planning for the museum &amp; gallery, with Spring 2022 looking likely for the opening.</p> <p><u>Inverclyde Libraries</u> re-opened 3 libraries (Greenock Central, Port Glasgow and Gourock Libraries) to the public on a restricted basis from 15 July. Library users can order books and other resources from the new “Connect and Collect” service, while general browsing is still closed. They can also use library PCs for a limited period of time. Books on Wheels (books &amp; resources delivery service) has been extended to cover the over 75s and those shielding. All other library activities &amp; events are still taking place online for now, including a virtual exhibition of the work produced as part of the Libraries <i>Making Waves</i> project which was aimed at reimagining libraries as cultural hubs.</p>		
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**Challenges this quarter: August 2020 – October 2020**

The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent UK lockdown has made the continuation of cultural activity very difficult. However, group members are continuing to promote activity online where possible and appropriate, and the above shows a great deal of work still going on behind the scenes. With venues beginning to re-open on a limited basis, the creative and cultural sector in Inverclyde is getting used to the ‘new normal’ ways of working and will no doubt find creative solutions to offering services in coming months.

**Next steps: November – January 2020**

Next steps will largely be determined by Government guidance and related risk assessments in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. Inverclyde's cultural sector will do as much as possible to offer Covid-safe activities to residents leading up to and including Christmas 2020.