



15 years of delivery, centre pages ▷ ▷ ▷

£2m anti-poverty fund
see page 3 ▷ ▷ ▷

Adult support inspection
see page 4 ▷ ▷ ▷

£4m recovery investment
see page 8 ▷ ▷ ▷

Get active this Summer
see page 12 ▷ ▷ ▷

Inverclyde Works

Jobs recovery programme aims to create new jobs and training opportunities



As the country moves towards greater freedoms and more businesses start to re-open, part of the recovery programme for Inverclyde involves opening up more job and training opportunities.

The council has launched a jobs recovery project to allow some jobs to be released to help increase job opportunities.

Employability programmes are also being focussed to support the local economy. Some of these programmes have already been in existence and others, such as the national Kickstart programme, are new and will be launching later in the year.

The council supports a range of local employability services delivered by partners. These include:

Inverclyde Community Development Trust – Provide an all age employability service which includes job seeking advice and support, vocational skills

training, and personal development programmes for local residents to improve confidence, motivation and skills to enable progression to employment.

Enable Scotland – A free service providing information and support to local employers in relation to inclusion and diversity along with a small supported employment provision.

Stepwell – provide a service aimed at improving the health, well-being and employment opportunities of local people who have a health condition that is preventing them from moving into employment

Inverclyde Advice & Employment Rights - a local organisation supporting people in work who are experiencing difficulties with their employer.

Look out for the name Inverclyde works on recruitment adverts in print and online and for #InverclydeWorks on social media to find current vacancies and opportunities.

New Health Centre now open



The new state of the art Greenock Health and Care Centre is now open to patients.

The new facility hosts a wide range of services including general practices, podiatry, physiotherapy, dental, speech and language therapy, mental health, sexual health, pharmacy as well as district nursing and home care staff.

The Greenock Health and Care Centre was made possible from £1.3 million investment from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and £21 million from the Scottish Government.

The inner courtyard of the three-storey building is home to a memorial plaque for Janice Graham, an Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership district nursing staff member who sadly died of COVID-19 last year.

New cruise centre back on course

Inverclyde's landmark new cruise ship visitor centre on Greenock's waterfront is back on course after covid affected the building trade in 2020 and caused the project to be re-tendered.

A new restaurant and arts space in partnership with the George Wyllie Foundation is planned for the centre.

The project is part of the Glasgow

City Deal funded by both the UK and Scottish Governments.

When cruise ships are able to return to full service after covid the centre could welcome more than 150,000 passengers to the country.

Visit discoverinverclyde.com for updates on tourism in Inverclyde and, when published, the Greenock cruise ship schedule.



Getting the vaccine, testing and self-isolating if you have symptoms are the best ways to #protectyourself #protectothers and #protectInverclyde

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of InView



A message from the leader of the council

This is the first edition of Inview we have published since the pandemic started.

As a communication mechanism it has its benefits but one drawback is the lead time for delivery and in the middle of the pandemic with things changing on a daily basis, it wasn't the right mechanism.

Thankfully with wider testing in place and the range of vaccinations being offered to combat Covid-19, it feels that we are all in a better place, even if we are not clear yet.

The past year has thrown challenges at all of us.

It has exposed areas where our communities need more support. It has shone a light on some examples of great work to support and protect our area.

In this edition, you will find out about some areas of recent success, a look back at the council during the career of the outgoing Chief Executive, and plans to support our area to move towards recovery from the pandemic including our new jobs

recovery programme – Inverclyde Works.

As the country and, hopefully with international co-operation, the rest of the world start to emerge through the pandemic we have two important jobs going forward.

The first is to never forget the effect of this virus on our community and the people we came to rely on to see us through it.

The second is to use that knowledge to build a fairer, stronger more resilient community.

Here in Inverclyde we should be proud of what we have seen with public services, the third sector, businesses and individuals coming together to care for, support and protect Inverclyde.

We should also recognise the strengths we have in our area.

When the country has been in lockdown with limitations in travelling it is our local services and businesses that we relied on. It is our local volunteers and community groups who got out to support vulnerable people.

Each of us has a role to play in making sure Inverclyde comes back stronger and seizes every opportunity to do that going forward.

Councillor Stephen McCabe
Leader of Inverclyde Council

Inverclyde groups receive Queen's Award

Two groups in Inverclyde have been awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

Belville Community Garden Trust and Compassionate Inverclyde have both been honoured with this prestigious award which is regarded as the MBE for voluntary groups.

These Greenock-based groups are amongst 241 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups across the UK to receive the Award this year. The number of nominations

remains very high year on year, showing that volunteers continue to make an invaluable contribution to make life better for those around them.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by volunteer groups which benefit their local communities.

It was created in 2002 to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Recipients are announced each year on 2nd June, the anniversary of The Queen's Coronation.



Image taken prior to the pandemic.



Get active this summer with our huge programme of free activities.

Booking details available online:
inverclyde.gov.uk/summerfun21

GET INTO SUMMER



SAFE SUMMER DRINKING TIPS

DON'T LET ALCOHOL TAKE THE FUN OUT OF SUMMER, THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER ADVISES ADULTS DRINK NO MORE THAN 14 UNITS A WEEK, OVER AT LEAST THREE DAYS WITH SOME ALCOHOL FREE DAYS. FOR MORE INFO ON UNITS GO TO DRINKAWARE.CO.UK

For local services go to
inverclydeadp.co.uk

inverclyde.gov.uk
[@inverclyde](https://twitter.com/inverclyde)

Inverclyde
council

If you are looking for work or support to get back to work, search #InverclydeWorks

£200k accessible playparks work complete

The wraps have been taken off new accessible play park equipment which has been installed at 13 sites across Inverclyde as part of a £200,000 council investment.

Children of all ages and abilities are now making the most of wheelchair-friendly ramps and

roundabouts at sites in Greenock, Port Glasgow, Gourock, Kilmacolm, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay.

Work was recently completed having got underway at the start of the year.

The council has spent around £100k on the equipment with a similar amount for the installations

and associated works, such as fencing, paving and surfacing.

Councillor Michael McCormick, Inverclyde Council's convener of environment and regeneration, said: "The completion of these improvements means we now have more accessible playparks for our children and young people to enjoy just in time for the longer days and, hopefully, better weather in the coming weeks and months

"The phased nature of the works meant some of the playparks were ready before others and were quickly put to good use and the initial feedback so far has been extremely

positive from our children and families."

The playparks included in this project are:

Greenock Watt Street, Battery Park, Wellpark, Overton.

Port Glasgow Birkmyre Avenue, Craigmarloch School, Coronation Park, pictured.

Gourock Cove Road, Walled Gardens, King Street.

Kilmacolm West Glen Park.

Inverkip Cullen Crescent.

Wemyss Bay Community Centre.



£2m anti-poverty fund

Inverclyde Council has agreed a new series of spending projects to help tackle poverty in the area.

The £2m anti-poverty fund aims to tackle issues raised before covid as part of the outcomes of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) which identified places across Scotland suffering from deprivation.

Inverclyde Council Leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe, said: "Inverclyde was identified as the area with the largest local share of deprived areas and the past year has only compounded how exposed some residents in the area have been.

The Pantry community food store from Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde Community Development Trust - The Trust. Pictured are councillors McCabe, Crowther, McVey, community representatives

and The Trust's Andy McCann.

Councillor Stephen McCabe at The Pantry, which is one of the initiatives set to benefit from extra funding.

"While there is a wider debate to be had about areas like ours becoming national priorities for investment, the council is putting its resources to work to support our communities through our covid recovery fund, through our Inverclyde Works jobs recovery programme and through the anti-poverty fund.

"The range of initiatives identified respond to the priorities set out by the community through local engagement and aim to help to focus on issues including employment, business, food and fuel insecurity and in supporting local organisations offering financial help to residents."



'Climate Beacon' to link creativity and climate change in Inverclyde for COP26

Inverclyde is one of seven areas in Scotland chosen as a 'Climate Beacon' bringing together the local creative and environmental sectors to raise awareness of climate change ahead of the COP26 summit in Glasgow later this year.

Beacon Arts Centre, Belville Community Garden Trust, RIG Arts and Inverclyde Council's libraries service, Inverclyde Libraries, have joined forces to inspire public engagement and positive action in the run-up to and beyond the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in November.

The Inverclyde Climate Beacon will focus on the roles of climate change mitigation and adaption as part of the

area's recovery from Covid-19.

The project is being funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Change and Culture Divisions, Creative Scotland, and Museums Galleries Scotland.

For more information visit: www.climatebeacons.com



The investment of £2m includes spending on:

- Local Employment pilots £1,037,000
- Dedicated business development officer £167,000
- School linked Social Workers £202,000
- Food Insecurity Year 2 Pantry and Fare Share Membership £124,000
- Fuel Insecurity £200,000
- Financial Fitness £60,000
- Starter Pack £74,000
- Early Intervention Support and Mentoring for Families £104,000
- Credit Union £8,000

Best in the country

Inverclyde Council is officially one of the best performing councils in the country.

The local authority has been recognised as part of a national benchmarking scheme which measures performance across all of Scotland's councils.

A report to the council's Policy and Resources Committee on the 'Local Government Benchmarking Framework' highlights that Inverclyde is in the top two 'quartiles' used to measure performance for 68 per cent of the measures.

And the council has seen year-on-year improvements since 2017 and is now first in Scotland with 50 indicators at the top.

Inverclyde Council Leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe, said:

"The benchmark is an indicator that shows how councils across Scotland are performing. It is hugely positive that Inverclyde is currently sitting at the top in the country.

"In many areas such as our schools performance we are already shown to be sector leading and in recent years the external reports into the council from the Care Inspectorate and the Accounts Commission has confirmed that success.

"The challenge is in making sure that we do not rest on our laurels and that we are able to focus also on the areas where we need to make improvements to ensure that residents continue to get the best value possible from their local services."



Strengths shown in first of its kind inspection



An inspection into adult support and protection in Inverclyde has shown clear strengths in how partners work together to protect vulnerable people.

The inspection, the first of its kind, brought The Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland together to carry out an inspection.

This was the first of a series of inspections to be carried out across Scotland.

Inspectors looked at health, police, and social work records of adults

of risk of harm. This included the records of 50 adults at risk of harm. It also involved the scrutiny of recordings of 38 adult protection initial inquiry episodes.

In the report of the inspection, published today, inspectors say they found the Inverclyde partnership had taken positive steps to ensure there were improvements in the lives of adults subject to adult support and protection processes, and that they were safer because of the support and protection they received.

The full report is published on the Care Inspectorate website.

Greenock waterfront art project

Inverclyde Council, in partnership with Sustrans Scotland, is working on a new public art initiative for the Greenock Waterfront area.

Creative Conversations II, backed by funding from Transport Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund through the Great Place Inverclyde Scheme, will transform National Cycle Network Route 75 with striking new installations created in collaboration with community groups.

Building on initial community engagement during 2020, local group RIG Arts in collaboration with artist Tragic O'Hara have been commissioned to deliver a series of new, permanent artworks along the Greenock waterfront area.

Councillor Jim Clocherty, depute leader of Inverclyde Council said: "We're pleased to be working with Sustrans Scotland to further enhance the National Cycle Network along the Greenock waterfront."

Cosmo Blake, Art and Diversity Co-ordinator at Sustrans Scotland, said: "We want to work with communities to keep up this momentum by making National Cycle Network routes welcoming and attractive spaces for everyone to spend time along."

Karen Orr, Chief Executive of RIG Arts said: "The project builds on last year's public consultations which welcomed the prospect of new creative interventions inspired by the place for the community and visitors to enjoy."

Two new maritime exhibitions launched

Two new exhibitions exploring Inverclyde's maritime past have launched at the Watt Institution in Greenock.

'The Lost Clyde' showcases paintings by famous Port Glasgow-born artist and former Gourack school teacher James Watt to celebrate his 90th birthday this year while 'Greenock and the Sea' features a range of different artworks curated by St Andrews University academic Dr Emma Bond.

Both opened at the Watt Institution, which incorporates the McLean Museum & Art Gallery, Watt Library and Watt Hall, at the start of June and will run for several months.

They tie in with the national 'Year of Coasts & Waters 2020/21' led by tourism agency VisitScotland to

celebrating the country's lochs, seas and rivers as places to visit.

Provost Martin Brennan helped launch both exhibitions.

The Watt Institution is open Wednesday-Saturday from 10am to 4pm and entry, including to the exhibitions, is free.



Plans to plant 10 trees for every person

Over the next decade, 10 trees for every man, woman and child in Glasgow City Region, including Inverclyde, will be planted as part of a new urban 'forest' to tackle climate change.

The ambitious planting pledge lies at the heart of the new Clyde Climate Forest, which is part of the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network, and will breathe new life across the eight local authorities in the region.

Around 18 million trees will be planted over the next decade, increasing woodland cover in the region from 17% to 20%.

The move is being viewed as an ideal opportunity for Glasgow City Region to demonstrate its commitment to reaching Net Zero, as it hosts COP26 in November.

In Inverclyde, trees are being planted at Coves Nature Reserve on the border between Greenock and



Gourock - the first of many projects across the district where planting will take place.

Council leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe, led the way along with volunteers from the Friends of Coves Community Nature Reserve group in planting the first saplings.

Councillor Stephen McCabe, Leader of Inverclyde Council, said: "We're in a climate emergency and we must do all we can to protect our planet."

"The Clyde Climate Forest initiative is a simple but effective way of using trees and nature to help reduce CO2 in the atmosphere and produce cleaner air."

"We're fortunate in Inverclyde to have so many wonderful green spaces like the Coves Nature Reserve but we can always do more and that's why I'm delighted Inverclyde is part of this project, which complements the ongoing efforts of the council, the people across our area and the wider Glasgow City Region to reduce our carbon footprint."

Individuals and community groups can donate to the Clyde Climate Forest project through www.mypark.scot/ccf.

For business donations contact: business@clydeclimateforest.co.uk



A decade of Fairtrade

Inverclyde has retained its status as a Fairtrade zone.

The district has been a recognised Fairtrade area since 2013 and the latest extension secured by the council will run until 2023.

The status acknowledges the work locally, including by the Inverclyde Fairtrade Steering Group led by retired school teacher Morag Paul.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

Provost Martin Brennan, who is also vice-convenor of education, said: "It's an honour for Inverclyde to be a Fairtrade zone and to be recognised for the work being done to support farmers and workers in developing countries in getting a fair price for their goods and services."

Among the things highlighted by in the renewal confirmation was the successful 'pop-up' shop at the Watt Institution last year run by the steering group and backed by the council, Inverclyde's support for the annual 'Fairtrade Fortnight' and work in local schools to promote Fairtrade, with many being recognised for their efforts.

Morag Paul, who chairs the Inverclyde Fairtrade Steering Group, said: "I'm particularly proud of the work that has been done in schools and nurseries by teachers and parent groups to promote Fairtrade in their classrooms, homes and communities."

Morag also paid tribute to Fairtrade volunteers and encouraged more local businesses to stock goods.

Inverclyde, became a Fairtrade zone in 2013, was the first local authority in Scotland to sign up to the International Fairtrade Charter and is also a member of the Scottish Fairtrade Forum.

The renewal of the status will support the work being done by the council examining historical links to the transatlantic slave trade.



Business support tops £23m

Business support schemes administered by Inverclyde Council have now topped £23 million.

The local authority has administered several funding schemes on behalf of the Scottish Government during the pandemic to in excess of 1,600 businesses.

Inverclyde Council Leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe, said: "The national limitations on local businesses during the pandemic have been unprecedented. A priority for the teams within the council has

been to make sure that funding is getting to businesses as quickly as possible.

"This is just one of the unseen areas where council staff were working throughout the pandemic to support the local community. I am really pleased that through the hard work of council teams we were able to get so much funding out to support our local businesses during this incredibly difficult time for them."

While the main business support schemes have now closed and with final reviews and appeals being

concluded, total support payments now exceed £23m over the period of the various lockdowns and are over and above Non-Domestic Rates relief provided by the council to businesses in 2020/21 and 2021/22.

The council has been involved in distributing funding for the likes of Retail, Hospitality, Leisure and Taxi Drivers, as well as administering the likes of the Strategic Framework Closure and Hardship Fund, Restart Grants and Discretionary Funding.



Our Chief Executive leaves after 15 years of delivery

With Aubrey Fawcett, Inverclyde Council's Chief Executive for the past five years, retiring, this edition of InView takes a look back at his past 15 years and highlights a few of Inverclyde's achievements in that time.

The picture spread here shows some of the major achievements over the past 15 years including the opening of new facilities, major improvements in services and the delivery of events.

2006

- New Corporate management team appointed to Inverclyde Council, Aubrey Fawcett joins as Corporate Director, Regeneration and Resources
- Urban regeneration company, Riverside Inverclyde (ri) created

2007

- Launch of Scotland's first corporate parenting scheme for looked after children
- New Inverclyde Council corporate plan developed

2008

- Then Prime Minister Gordon Brown opens the newly completed Newark Primary School in Port Glasgow
- The new Inverclyde Academy building was opened
- New office development starts on Riverside Business Park by Riverside Inverclyde



2009

- Stock transfer of council housing was completed
- A new plan to develop secondary education in Inverclyde was approved
- Scotland's first corporate parenting scheme through the children's champions initiative was launched
- Scotland legend Alan Rough and Morton hero Andy Ritchie team up to launch the new Lady Octavia football pitches as part of £23m leisure investment

2010

- The new All Saints Primary School was officially opened by the Bishop of Paisley. The Rt Rev. Philip Tartaglia



2011

- New £29m Notre Dame High School opens
- New £27m Clydevue Academy opens
- New library opens at Kilmacolm village centre



2012

- HM The Queen officially opens the £2m customer service centre in Greenock
- Binnie Street Children's Centre is officially opened
- Parklea Community Sports Hub officially opened by then Scotland Football Manager Craig Levein
- Gourock's iconic outdoor swimming pool re-opened following a £1.8 million refurbishment
- Greenock i Youth Zone opens



2013

- Aubrey takes on additional role of Chief Executive of RI
- The Beacon Arts Centre (Greenock) moves from the Arts Guild to a new purpose built facility on the waterfront
- Whinhill Primary School extension and refurbishment opens
- Mearns Centre reborn in a new home and with a new name: Lomond View Academy
- St Columba's High School in Gourock officially re-opens after £15m refurbishment and extension



2014

- Queen's baton relay visits Inverclyde
- £1.1 billion City Deal launched, with three Inverclyde projects included

2014

- The largest school campus in Scotland at Port Glasgow with
- St Stephens High;
 - Port Glasgow High and
 - Craigmarloch School





2015

- Opening of Ardgowan Primary School
- Central Library comes home to Wallace Place
- New health and social care headquarters at Hector McNeil House in Clyde Square, Greenock



2015

- The £5.8m Gourock Pierhead Regeneration Scheme opens (inset: plans unveiled by Councillor Michael McCormick and Councillor Stephen McCabe)



2016

- Inverclyde becomes Scotland's top performing area for recycling
- Aubrey Fawcett appointed as Chief Executive of Inverclyde Council



2018

- Glenpark Early Learning Centre opened after £3.4m investment
- New cruise ship visitor centre plans announced to bring 150,000 plus visitors to Scotland as part of the Glasgow city deal
- A record year for Inverclyde's school exam results with S5 pupils achieving their highest ever Highers awards
- New £9.2m St Ninian's Primary School opens in Gourock



2017

- Inverclyde's best value audit by the Accounts Commission highlights the council as the 'most improved' in the country and that there was a 'sea change' in how services are delivered since the previous audit in 2005
- Inverclyde's services for children and young people gets 'excellent' ratings from Care Inspectorate
- New spur road off A8 directly into Port Glasgow town centre opened
- Announcement that the new landmark cruise ship visitor centre will include arts space in partnership with the George Wyllie Foundation
- Inverclyde awarded 'Gold Award' for support for the Armed Forces



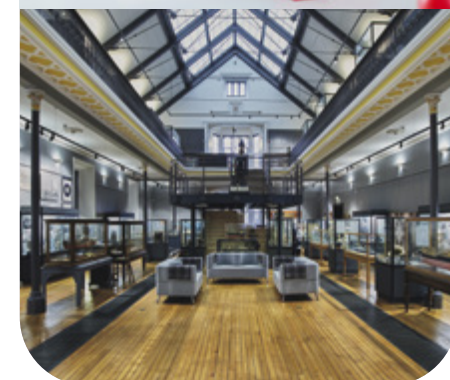
2020

- Inverclyde Cares launches to bring communities together as part of the covid pandemic recovery
- £11m paid out in business support for covid hit businesses across Inverclyde
- St Mary's Primary School in Greenock £6m extension and refurbishment complete



2021

- Joint inspection of adult support and protection highlights areas of strength in Inverclyde's services
- Inverclyde works launched to focus covid recovery on jobs, training and support
- £4m covid recovery investment programme launched
- Inverclyde among top performing councils in the country revealed in benchmarking data



£4m recovery investment

The council is set to invest £4m to boost recovery across Inverclyde

The fund, approved by councillors, includes extra support for business and town centres, extra funding for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, increased place marketing for Inverclyde, boosting access to sports and fitness and earlier implementation of Universal P4-7 School Meals.

Councillor Stephen McCabe, Inverclyde Council Leader and convener of the council's Policy and Resources Committee, said: "We have already launched a significant phase of our recovery interventions with the Inverclyde Works £6m jobs and employability programme.

"The next level of investment includes a range of practical areas where we can support wider recovery from covid including supporting people to get better access to sport and fitness to encourage our area to be more resilient.

"The recovery programme also focusses on support for business, especially our towns and villages.

Throughout the pandemic even when national restrictions allowed it was our local high streets that were there to support local people including businesses doing more business online or delivering differently to keep customers safe.

"Our recovery programme includes measures to support our towns and villages and other businesses."

The interventions also bring universal free school meals for children in primaries four to seven across Inverclyde.

Councillor McCabe added: "The recovery plan also includes supporting our young people of all ages including extra investment in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme to further boost Inverclyde's position as one of the most successful areas in the country. Universal free school meals for primary pupils will also be introduced earlier than planned to support young people and families right across our school estate."

The range of activities as part of Inverclyde Council's organisational recovery plan include:

Enhanced Cleaning - Buildings (net extra cost)	£286,000
Additional Cleaning Materials /Sanitiser/Wipes	£100,000
Cornalees/Lunderson Bay Cleaning Toilets	£13,000
Helpline Continuation	£45,000
Increased Occupational Health Provision	£30,000
Additional Human Resources Support to Services	£95,000
Additional ICT Service Desk Technicians	£105,000
Extra Temporary Capacity - Pottery Street Depot	£100,000
Extra Duke of Edinburgh Opportunities	£200,000
Earlier implementation of Universal P4-7 School Meals	£192,000
Lighting, Gourrock Amphitheatre	£45,000
Launch of Sports Strategy	£10,000
Signage for Rankin Park	£10,000
Large Outdoor Festival in 2022	£350,000
Allocation to Localities for Recovery Events	£120,000
Small Grants/Waivers to support small groups restarting	£10,000
Marketing Post & Support for Discover Inverclyde	£220,000
Contribution to City Region Marketing Campaign	£50,000
Establish Inverclyde Cares Board & Memorial	£40,000
Provide passers for leisure access for physical activity	£50,000
Support participation in groups and to re-engage with communities	£60,000
Develop Food to Fork project to promote Growing Strategy	£30,000
Develop Wellbeing Campaign	£35,000
Rent Relief Scheme	£150,000
Town Centre Promotion/Events	£200,000
Support for Digital Marketing £150,000	£150,000
Import/Export/Access to Stock Support	£50,000
Extension to Discretionary Grants Scheme	£500,000
Extension to Pay and Display suspension - 12 months	£349,000
Investment in Clyde Muirshiel Park	£250,000
Investment in Council Parks to encourage outdoor activity	£200,000



Louise is new Chief



Inverclyde Council has appointed Louise Long as the new Chief Executive.

Louise replaces current Chief Executive Aubrey Fawcett who is set to retire from the council in September after five years in the job.

Louise Long is currently Chief Officer for Inverclyde Integration Joint Board (IJB) and Corporate Director of Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) at Inverclyde Council.

Inverclyde Council Leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe, said:

"Louise has been corporate director with the council for four years and has consistently shown both her leadership skills and compassion in the Health and Social Care Partnership. During the pandemic she has led from the front in ensuring that Inverclyde's health and care response has helped to protect and support our community.

"Louise becomes the first woman to hold the job of Chief Executive in the council breaking another barrier and I hope inspiring women and girls across Inverclyde."

Louise said: "I am delighted to be appointed Chief Executive of Inverclyde Council. My time with Inverclyde since joining has been inspiring seeing how public service staff have responded to supporting the community especially during the pandemic. I aim to build on the work that has been done and ensure that Inverclyde continues to nurture our communities, deliver excellent public services and be a force for good for each and every part of our area."

Inverclyde on TV over 16 months

Inverclyde has been showcased to people nationally and internationally thanks to a run of 16 consecutive months of TV appearances.

The area has been on 'the box' at least once a month since March 2020 across Scotland, the UK and internationally on networks and programmes such as BBC Breakfast, BBC Six O'Clock News, BBC Ten O'Clock News, BBC's The One Show, Channel 4 News, Channel 5 News, CNN, Good Morning Britain, ITV News, STV News and STV

Scotland Tonight.

There has been over 60 appearances during that time featuring several local schools, leisure and arts facilities, care homes, businesses and community organisations.

Inverclyde has also been in documentaries and other shows with many more film and TV appearances in the pipeline.

On top of that, the area has been showcased in local, regional and national press and radio.



Schools and nurseries are top class

Another state-of-the-art school has been delivered as part of Inverclyde Council's huge £270 million transformation of schools and nurseries.

St Mary's Primary in Greenock was the latest to be given a massive overhaul as part of the local authority's unprecedented investment in its schools estate in which every local primary and secondary has been either rebuilt or given an extensive makeover.

It was the last full refurbishment as part of the project.

Councillor Jim Clocherty, deputy leader of Inverclyde Council and convener of education and communities, said: "This is one of the final schools as part of the council's unprecedented estates programme, which has seen every school brought up to a first-class standard.

"It all bodes well for the future and for the continued success of education here in Inverclyde."

The final piece of the jigsaw is Gourock Primary with work now progressing on an extension to the school following delays caused by the original contractor going into administration and subsequent covid-related issues.

New or refurbished nurseries are also being delivered to support the council's early implementation of the Scottish Government's 1140 hours policy.

Up next is a £2.9m new-build Larkfield Children's Centre in Greenock and a £2.4m extension to Rainbow Family Centre in Port Glasgow.

Both are due for completion this summer.

Nurseries are being expanded or built to support the Inverclyde Council's doubling of early years provision to 1,140 hours per eligible child annually.

The local authority managed to implement the policy in August

2020 as originally planned despite the deadline being delayed by 12 months to August 2021 because of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

At St Mary's Primary, the school has been modernised throughout, a new entrance created and a gym/assembly hall added onto the existing building, which first opened in 1909.

As well as all the latest mod cons inside, work was also carried out on the roof and stonework.

The project was completed in time for the return of pupils and staff after the October break last year.

The last school to be completed as part of the council's estates programme is Gourock Primary.

A new builder has been appointed and work back underway on the project, which includes an extension and partial remodelling/refurbishment.



Eco campaign is breath of fresh air



A campaign to tackle air pollution proved a breath of fresh air for young environmentalists at three Greenock schools.

P6 pupils St Patrick's, St Mary's and All Saints primaries took part in events to mark Clean Air Day 2021 in June, with support from Inverclyde Council environmental health and road safety staff.

The campaign, backed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UK and Scottish governments, aims to raise awareness of the impact of air pollution, which is said to cause up to 36,000 deaths in the UK each year.

According to organisers Global Action Plan, an environmental charity, poor air quality can cause heart and lung diseases, is linked to low birth weight and children's lung development and may even contribute to mental health issues.

There were presentations at the three local schools to make young people aware of the key issues with fun activities in between.

They also learned about the environmental benefits of using public transport or active travel, such as walking, cycling and 'wheeling'.

Councillor Michael McCormick, Inverclyde Council's convener of environment and regeneration, said: "We're in the climate emergency together and we're ultimately striving to save our planet for future generations so it's heartening to see our young people getting so involved in this campaign, with support from our environmental staff."

The council provided activity packs for staff and pupils for the event, which was supported by Inverclyde bus company McGill's and national agency Environment Protection Scotland.

Festive film is top of the tree

A festive film produced by the Beacon Arts Centre in partnership with Inverclyde Council has topped the tree at two awards ceremonies including one in Paris.

'The Magical Beacon Stone' continued its success by winning prizes across multiple categories at this year's film festivals including EdiPlay Festival in the French capital.

There were also several successes at the IndieFEST Film Awards.

Provost of Inverclyde, Councillor



Martin Brennan, said: "I'm delighted that The Magical Beacon Stone has won these awards. It's well-deserved recognition for all the hard work that went into this project in such a short period of time by the Beacon and all the cast and crew, with support from Inverclyde Council, to deliver a first-class festive film for everyone to enjoy."

The film scooped the following from the IndieFEST Film Awards:

- Award of Merit - Special Mention: Children's/Family Programming
- Award of Merit - Special Mention: Cinematography (Kenneth Caldwell)

And Awards of Merit for:

- Film Short
- Supporting Actors: Mark Cox, Jimmy Chisholm, Lee Samuel
- Original Score (David Goodall)

- Original Song (The Beacon Stone by David Goodall, sung by Louise Montgomery)

- Direction (David Goodall)

Going further afield, Ediplay Festival in Paris has awarded The Magical Beacon Stone wins for the following categories:

- Best Comedy
- Best Cinematographer (Kenneth Caldwell)
- Best Producer (David Goodall)

More than 14,000 people tuned in online last year to watch the short film featuring Beacon panto favourites and produced by the creative team behind the theatre's annual, professional pantomime.

The film, funded by the council, was made available to view for free in December 2020 in the absence of live performances due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Bright note for LED street lights

Inverclyde has reached new heights when it comes to street lights with more environmentally-friendly LED lamps now in place across 97 per cent of the network.

The council has spent almost £5.5 million overhauling some 12,000 lanterns and 1,200 columns in the last five years to improve lighting for residents and dramatically reduce energy consumption.

That has helped drive down the volume of harmful carbon emissions by 55 per cent, which is the equivalent of 1,655 tonnes of CO2 or 2.75 million kilowatts of electricity.

The switch to more energy-efficient LED street lights is also delivering an annual saving of around £300,000 in energy costs for Inverclyde taxpayers.

Councillor Michael McCormick, convener of environment and regeneration, said: "Fantastic work has been done across the council to reduce harmful carbon emissions significantly.

Councillor Michael McCormick at one of the LED street lights at Lyle Hill in Greenock

"LED lamps use half the amount of energy while ensuring our streets

and roads are better lit, which benefits everyone.

"We're committed to tackling climate change and we'll continue to do all we can to help reduce harmful gases being emitted into the environment."

The move to LED street lights is one of a number of measures taken by the council in recent times to reduce its carbon footprint.

Since 2012/13, CO2 emissions have fallen in each of the last eight years and are down by almost 50 per cent from 19,104 tonnes to 10,212 tonnes at the end of 2019/20.



Image by George Munro, Greenock Telegraph.

Kilmacolm Library 10th anniversary marked



Kilmacolm is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the village library.

The facility opened on 31 May 2011 as part of the new Kilmacolm Community Centre, also known as The Cargill Centre, following a £2.2 million restoration of a former Victorian school building which was part-funded by Inverclyde Council.

Over the past decade, the library has welcomed on average 25,500 visitors each year and issued over 160,000 books.

The best read adult novel has been 'Entry Island' by Peter May and Nick Sharratt's 'Shark in the Park!'

the most popular children's title.

Since opening in 2011, the library has also hosted 455 Bookbug sessions involving more than 9,000 children and almost 8,600 adults on average.

Ongoing coronavirus restrictions unfortunately put paid to a big celebratory event, but library staff welcomed special guests to mark the occasion, including youngsters Archie Hughes and Sebastian McCracken, who attended Bookbug sessions there as babies and are now library club members, and long term customer Sylvia Megaughin.

Greenock Blitz 80th anniversary remembrance

Inverclyde fell silent to mark the 80th anniversary of the Greenock Blitz.

Provost of Inverclyde, Councillor Martin Brennan, laid a wreath at the blitz memorial in Greenock Cemetery on 7 May while the Scottish parliamentary election count at the Waterfront Leisure Complex fell silent as those in attendance observed a local minute's silence.

The anniversary was also marked with a special report on STV News, which included a visit to the Watt Institution in Greenock where there is a WW2 display.

Provost Brennan said: "While Greenock bore the brunt of the bombings, the events of the sixth and seventh of May 1941 had a devastating impact on communities and families right across Inverclyde."

Events to mark the anniversary had to be scaled back due to restrictions associated with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The commemorations marked 80 years since around 350 German bombers targeted the town on the nights of 6 and 7 May 1941 killing 271 people.

A further 10,200 were injured during the bombings, which also destroyed some 5,000 local homes and caused damaged to nearly 25,000 more.



Excellence awards

Inverclyde Council was named a finalist in four categories at the prestigious UK-wide Performance Network Awards 2021.























The annual prize-giving, organised by the Association for Public Sector Excellence (APSE), recognises top performing local authorities alongside those that are striving to continuously improve frontline services based on benchmarking data.

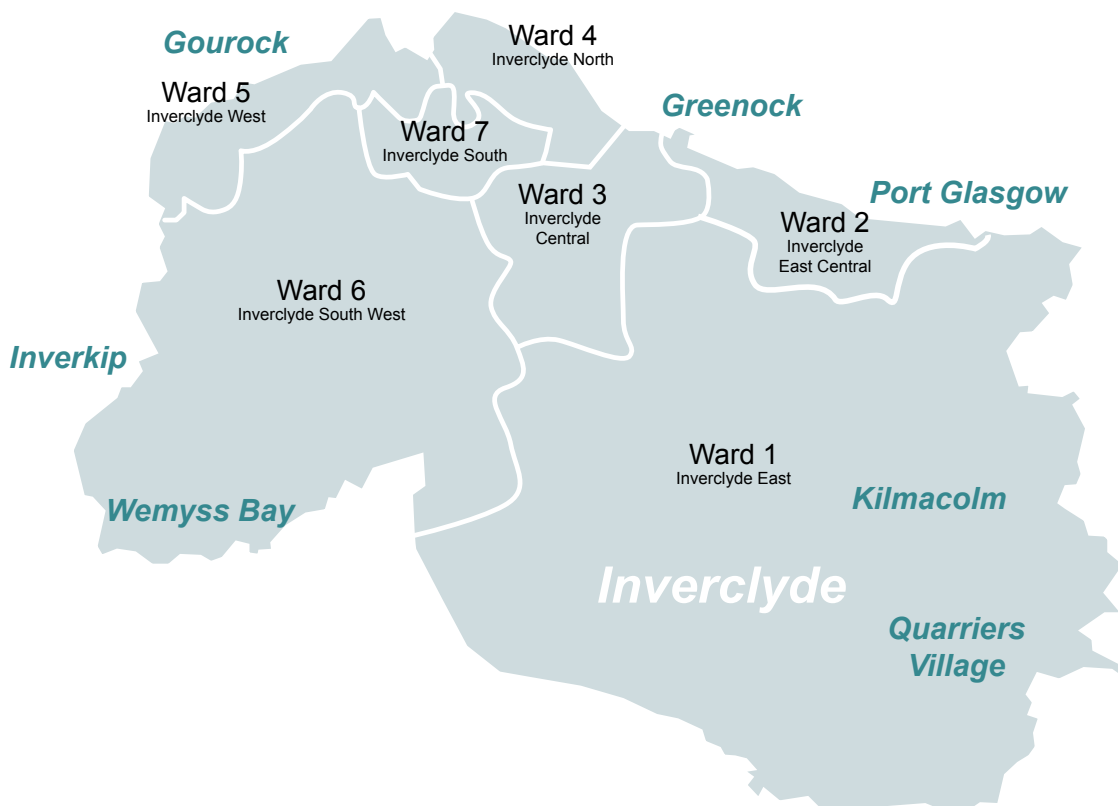
Inverclyde Council was finalists in the following categories: Roads, Highways and Winter Maintenance Services (Best Performers); Street Lighting (Best Performers); Building Cleaning (Best Performers); and Building Cleaning (Most Improved Performers).

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the winners were announced at a special virtual ceremony on 8 June 2021.

The council has won and been shortlisted for several prizes at the awards in recent years.

Your Councillors

Ward 1 Inverclyde East	Ward 2 Inverclyde East Central	Ward 3 Inverclyde Central	Ward 4 Inverclyde North
 Christopher Curley	 Jim MacLeod	 Colin Jackson	 Martin Brennan
 Stephen McCabe	 Drew Mckenzie	 Michael McCormick	 Graeme Brooks
 David Wilson	 Robert Moran	 Jim McEleny	 Jim Clocherty
Ward 5 Inverclyde West	Ward 6 Inverclyde South West	Ward 7 Inverclyde South	 Elizabeth Robertson
 Ronnie Ahlfeld	 Gerry Dorrian	 John Crowther	Colour codes to political parties <div> <div>Independent</div> <div>Scottish Conservative and Unionist</div> <div>Scottish Labour Party</div> <div>Scottish Liberal Democrats</div> <div>Scottish National Party (SNP)</div> <div>ALBA</div> </div>
 Chris McEleny	 Innes Nelson	 Tommy McVey	
 Lynne Quinn	 Ciano Rebecchi	 Natasha Murphy	



You can write to your Councillor at:

Inverclyde Council
Municipal Buildings
Clyde Square
Greenock
Inverclyde PA15 1LY

Councillors' surgery information is available on our website at:
www.inverclyde.gov.uk

You can contact your Councillor during office hours on:
01475 712020 or 712727

**Get active
this summer
with our huge
programme
of free
activities.**



As well as our usual holiday hubs, we are delighted to work with local partners to deliver an exciting range of community activities from 28 June to 13 August, including:

- Art workshops at the Watt Institution
- Rock-pooling with Clyde Muirshiel Rangers Service
- Free swimming and ice skating with Inverclyde Leisure
- Theatre workshops with the Beacon Arts Centre
- Youth work and Active Schools programme
- Comic workshops with Magic Torch
- Football camp with Greenock Morton
- Free playschemes
- Pictures in the Park...and more!

**GET
INTO
SUMMER**

Note: Your contact details will be held for each event to support Covid-19 Track and Trace services.

How to book

Programmes and booking available online:

inverclyde.gov.uk/summerfun21

Inverclyde
council

DISCOVERINVERCLYDE.COM