



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	4th October 2021
Report By:	Louise Long, Chair of LOIP Programme Board	Report No:	
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Subject:	Proposal to extend the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Alliance Board to extend the current Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) (2017-22) for a further year until March 2023.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The Inverclyde LOIP was developed in 2017 and set out three main priorities and action plans related to:

- Population
- Inequalities
- Environment, Culture and Heritage

2.2 One of the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 is that Community Planning Partnerships review their LOIP and revise the plan as necessary. A review of Inverclyde's LOIP 2017-22 was carried out in 2020 and an additional priority of the Local Economy added.

2.3 Since the review, Inverclyde has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, although the full longer term impact is still unknown at this point. Recovery plans have been developed and will support the local community to recover over the next year.

2.4 In light of the fairly recent refresh of the LOIP, the impacts of Covid 19 pandemic on delivery, and the need to ensure full community consultation and engagement; it is proposed that the current LOIP lifespan is extended for a further year until March 2023.

2.5 To enable longer term priorities and delivery of actions, consideration should be given to the future LOIP having a longer time span, a minimum of 10 years, with regular reviews and refresh built in as part of the governance. The extension to the timeframe reflects that the causes of inequality locally are deep rooted and so sustained, positive change can only be achieved in the longer term.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- Approves the LOIP Programme Board's proposal to extend the current LOIP until March 2023; and

- Notes the LOIP Programme Board's intention to develop a longer term LOIP should set out a vision and priorities for a longer time frame.

Louise Long
Chair, Programme Board
Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Community Planning element of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, placed responsibility on Inverclyde Alliance to develop a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Inverclyde's LOIP 2017-22 was developed in 2017 and formally approved by the Inverclyde Alliance at its meeting on 11 December 2017.
- 4.2 The LOIP set out a 10 year vision '*Nurturing Inverclyde: Getting it right for every Child, Citizen and Community*' with a five year plan (2017-22) containing three strategic priorities identified:
- Population
 - Inequalities
 - Environment, Culture and Heritage
- 4.3 A review of Inverclyde's LOIP 2017-22 was carried out in 2020 to ensure that it was up to date in terms of legislation and policy development; that it contained the latest statistical information; and consultation and engagement with the community to enable an assessment to be made regarding whether the current three priorities were still the right ones for Inverclyde.
- 4.4 The review concluded that the current priorities were still very much key issues for Inverclyde. However, the data and feedback from communities indicated that consideration should be given to making "the local economy" a priority for the remainder of the lifetime of the plan. A new delivery plan has been developed and the Population Partnership Group remit expanded to include Economy.
- 4.5 The current LOIP is due to end in March 2022, with a new LOIP requiring to be developed and approved by the Alliance Board preferably at its March 2022 board meeting.

5.0 IMPACT OF COVID

- 5.1 The Covid 19 pandemic which commenced in March 2020 has already had a profound impact on the Inverclyde community. Initially all partners moved to business continuity plans and focussed on the immediate support required by communities through the different phases of lockdown and into recovery.
- 5.2 Research published by the Scottish Government suggests that outcomes associated with health, economy, work, business and culture will all have been deeply set back by Covid-19. It is also anticipated that the longer term impact on the labour market will result in increased poverty levels. Education and children outcomes are also expected to be negatively affected, although the extent of this will take longer to fully emerge. The findings in relation to outcomes for communities and the environment are more mixed with each being impacted in both positive and negative ways and again, it will only be in the fullness of time that the true impact becomes clear.
- 5.3 It is already apparent that due to the disproportionate nature of the pandemic, inequalities have been exacerbated for many people. A number of groups have been particularly affected, including households on low incomes or in poverty, low paid workers, children and young people, older people, disabled people, minority ethnic groups and women. Many people will fall into more than one group and so the impact on them will be magnified.
- 5.4 The Inverclyde Alliance developed a Partnership Recovery Plan (2021/22) focussed on the three key areas of Education, Culture and Sport; Health and Wellbeing; and the Economy. These plans set out a range of actions to be delivered over the next year to support Inverclyde's recovery.

6.0 THE FUTURE LOIP

- 6.1 As stated above the LOIP is due to end in March 2022, and in order to develop a new LOIP within the timescales work requires to commence throughout 2021 to ensure sign off at the required governance structures.
- 6.2 The LOIP Programme Board considered the rationale for extending the plan beyond its current lifespan.

Rationale to consider extension to the current LOIP

- The review of the current LOIP was undertaken recently in 2020, a full consultation and review was undertaken at that point therefore the LOIP is still very current.
 - The new Local Economy priority which commenced in April 2021 will only have one year to embed and deliver within the current timeframe.
 - Covid 19 has impacted on delivery timescales for a range of plans and actions.
 - The Strategic Needs Assessment which will help inform the LOIP is being updated. The full impact of Covid 19 is not yet able to be evidenced - there is a time lag with both local and national performance data. This may highlight new and emerging priorities emerging for Inverclyde.
 - Consultation with key stakeholders and communities on new priorities is vital- Covid 19 ways of working will impact on traditional methods of full consultation.
- 6.3 The Community Empowerment Act 2015 is not prescriptive in terms of the planning cycle for LOIPs as long as partnerships can show they are regularly reviewing their priorities and plans. Reviews of other LOIPs have shown many of them are much longer term 10-15 years LOIPs as they are aware a longer term vision and delivery is required to meet the challenges.

7.0 PROPOSAL

- 7.1 The current LOIP end in March 2022, officers' recommendation to the LOIP Programme Board to extend the LOIP for a further year until March 2023 due to all the considerations set out in section 6.2 was approved.
- 7.2 The LOIP Programme Board also approved that the next LOIP should be for a longer time period of a 10-15 year plan. The extension to the timeframe reflects that the LOIP priorities are based on evidence of local need and that many of the issues that the partnership is working to address, such as, poverty; unemployment, health inequalities and depopulation are entrenched and so, positive change can only be achieved in the longer term.
- 7.3 Moving to a 10 year plan will also allow the Alliance to assess more accurately whether positive change is being sustained. LOIPs must clearly state what will be different for communities in 10 years and the alignment of the vision and Plan will enable the Alliance to strengthen its performance framework by setting out indicators and targets for the short, medium and longer term.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Legal: none at present
Finance: none at present
Human Resources: none at present
Equality and Diversity: none at present
Population: repopulation is a priority within the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan.
Inequalities: inequalities is a priority within the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan.

9.0 CONSULTATIONS

9.1 N/A

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Inverclyde's Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-2022