



Name of place applying
Greenock

City status / Lord Mayor or Provost status
City Status

Local authority
Inverclyde Council

Contact details of applicant
Application made by Inverclyde Council

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a) Summary

Greenock has been of strategic importance during times of major change for our country and quietly played its part in key stages of our nation's history.

It is birthplace to a son who drove the Industrial Revolution. One who made his mark on the world and one that is still felt today over 200 years after his death.

That legacy of James Watt is hidden in plain sight across the world everywhere there is electric light with the name Watt marked on every lightbulb – a symbol of ideas and progress.

Greenock has seen times of huge wealth and times of struggle and poverty.

Throughout it all, Greenock has shown it has strength of character and compassion.

It has shown it has the will to get through difficult times and come out the other side.

City status does not provide in itself additional jobs or investment; it does not put extra money directly into people's pockets and on its own, it will not bring extra visitors to the area.

As part of the area's overarching recovery plans from Covid which exposed underlying issues, city status can be one part of supporting the community to be more resilient through increased community wealth building, leveraging in more investment and getting more jobs.

For Greenock, it can be a catalyst to growth and development and support a strong recovery.

City status would recognise the history and heritage of Greenock and help to look forward to a future, which builds on the strong civic and community pride to encourage our area to stand a little taller and a little prouder.

It can help to shine a light on an area which has been there for our country at important moments and has the ambition and drive to be there again and to take its place as a significant Scottish and UK city of strategic importance with its crucial links as part of the west of Scotland.

It can help to remind those who have forgotten about the incredible contribution the place has made and it can encourage those who don't know yet that there is something worth discovering in Greenock.

Greenock is ready for visitors to discover its arts and culture and its history and heritage and to play its part in how the country recovers successfully from Covid.

City status for Greenock will be a catalyst to support covid recovery plans, to drive our ambition to ensure that Greenock becomes once again that strong, metropolitan, outward looking international centre it has been throughout its history and can be again as Scotland's eighth city.

b) Introduction

Our place

Greenock was raised to a Burgh of Barony by virtue of a Charter of 1635, according to Robert Murray Smith's History of Greenock originally published in 1921.

He went on to highlight that the name Greenock has gone through many spelling variations and claims around its origination ranging from a derivation of the British word Graenag, a gravelly or sunny place, the Gaelic Grianach, a sunny bay and even Grian, the sun, and cnoc, a hill.

There's even been suggestions that a famous large Green Oak grew on the banks of the River Clyde and that the fishermen "...made fast their cables to its trunk".

Wherever the name originated, Greenock's strong identity and pivotal position in the Firth of Clyde has made it a feature of Scottish life and its history and ambition to rise above the worst effects of the covid pandemic make the area an ideal candidate to be considered for the honour of City status as part of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

James Watt

Greenock's most famous son is also one of Scotland and the United Kingdom's and a name memorialised everywhere there is illumination around the world – James Watt (1736-1819).

Born in the town on 19 January 1736, James Watt's life as an inventor, mechanical engineer and chemist was one of invention and innovation and a life that changed the world within his lifetime.

His work in improving the Newcomen Steam Engine made his steam engine improvements into the mechanical workhorse of the Industrial Revolution.

When James Watt died on 25 August 1819, while his body was buried in the grounds of St Mary's Church in Birmingham, his name lives on in memorials throughout the world and in his hometown.

The location of his birth is memorialised by a statue to Watt, the town's marina, James Watt Dock, bears his name and the recently refurbished library and museum adopted in 2019 an historic name, The Watt Institution, to further memorialise him in the town of his birth.

Shipbuilding

As a port town, Greenock, became symbols of the rise and decline of the shipbuilding industry in Scotland.

From its early days when John Scott's company was founded in 1711 in Greenock shipbuilding in the lower Clyde through ingenuity and entrepreneurship helped to make the town one of the world's most significant maritime hubs with ships built in the town touching every corner of the globe.

Scott's yard was at the forefront of the expansion of shipbuilding and was the first shipyard on the Clyde to build a vessel for non-Scottish owners in 1765 and its first warship The Prince of Wales in 1806.

The years 1875 to 1914 saw the greatest development of Inverclyde's shipbuilding industry.

In the years after the First World War, depression hit the industry and despite a brief reprieve by the need for shipbuilding during World War Two, the industry faced competition from abroad, restructuring and closures.

Immigration and emigration

Greenock was a major immigration port in the 1840s and 50s. Scots looking for pastures new following the Highland Clearances and people from Ireland escaping the Great Famine headed for Greenock. It also played a major role as a port of embarkation in the 19th and 20th centuries which saw thousands of men, women and children seek new lives across the Commonwealth and in the USA.

The Radical War

Greenock's Bank Street holds an important place in The Radical War of 1820. Also known as the 'Scottish Insurrection', soldiers opened fire on a crowd who tried to free impoverished anti-government protesters being escorted to Greenock jail.

Eight people were killed, including an eight-year-old boy and a man aged 65 – the youngest and oldest victims, and a further 10 were seriously injured.

It is regarded by many as the starting point of trade unionism in Scotland.

A memorial stands on the site and the names of all the victims and the words 'remember the 8th of April, that bloody day when many were wounded and carried away' are also inscribed along the wall at Bank Street, near to where the jail was located in 1820.

The war years

Because of its pivotal position on the Firth of Clyde, Greenock was an important location to support the Armed Forces during the Second World War.

The town became the home port of the displaced Free French Navy during the war with the permanent memorial of the Cross of Lorraine standing proudly at the top of Lyle Hill marking the link which has become a place of pilgrimage for French Naval personnel whenever stationed in The Clyde.

The memorial is also attended each year by the French Consul on Remembrance Sunday where wreaths are laid by the area's Provost and other dignitaries.

Canadian forces stationed in the town are also represented by the Embassy each year.

The nights of 6 and 7 May 1941 are remembered each year in Greenock to commemorate the 271 people killed in the Greenock Blitz.

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.

The raids by German bombers over these two nights targeted the shipyards and berthed ships around the town. However, the brunt of the bombing fell on residential areas across the town. Many of those were children and entire families were lost.

A permanent Memorial sits in Greenock Cemetery to commemorate the dead of the Greenock Blitz.

Our Royal Connections

Towering above Greenock from the top of the historic Municipal Buildings the Victoria Tower is a symbol of the success and wealth of Greenock during the era.

It stands 75 metres tall and was constructed in 1886 in Clyde Square.

In 1885, the Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club was granted the Royal Charter after providing a boat that was used to row Queen Victoria on Loch Maree, during one of her summer tours of the Highlands.

In 2012 when Her Majesty and HRH The Prince Phillip (1921-2021) were visiting Greenock to formally open the new customer service centre in the Municipal Buildings it is the Victoria Tower that drew their attention in a famous photograph taken by a local photographer during the visit.

However, this was not Her Majesty's first visit to the town.

Admiralty archives show the young Princess Elizabeth accompanying the King and Queen on a visit to HMS King George V on 29 October 1944.

The Watt Library can make its connection directly to Her Majesty's principle residence. It is now part of the newly refurbished Watt Institution and was created by contributions of the James Watt Club, the now Category A listed building contains a replica of Chantrey's famous statue of Watt.

It was opened in 1837 and designed from drawings of Sir Edward Blore (1787-1879) who counted among his other architectural projects Buckingham Palace and the restoration of Lambeth Palace.

Today Inverclyde's connection with the Royal Family links to the extraordinary success of our young people in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Our municipal Infrastructure, transport links and media

Greenock's Municipal Buildings in Clyde Square is the municipal headquarters for local government since its creation in the 1880s and has housed the municipal services of the town originally providing the home for the town's court, fire service and police service.

The Fire and Police services for the town are now headquartered in separate buildings today with other Municipal Services housed in the town including Greenock Sherriff Court, Inverclyde Royal Hospital. In addition to Inverclyde Council's Municipal duties, the council is also port authority as one of the areas of the country with a major container port in its district within the town at Greenock Ocean Terminal.

Greenock is served by 10 primary schools and four secondaries. The town's Lomond View Academy is a joint education and social work resource, which provides an alternative to mainstream education and care services for young people who are experiencing social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. It seeks to keep young people in both their community and school in the hope of avoiding the need to access residential care and education.

Schools across Inverclyde have been part of an investment programme which has delivered the ambition that every school in the area will either be a new build or significant refurbishment to ensure young people have the very best learning environment.

Inverclyde and Greenock now boasts arguably one of the best school estates in the country.

Greenock is also home to the two local campuses for West College Scotland. The college is currently based at Finnart Street and the Waterfront but has ambitious plans to deliver a new college centre at the waterfront area of Greenock.

Greenock's Central Station was opened in 1841 marking a new era in rail travel. Greenock has eight train stations serving the town, one of the highest numbers outside the major cities in the country.

Its transport links connect Greenock to Central Station in Glasgow in 30 minutes by train and Glasgow Airport is only a short car journey along the A8/M8 from Greenock.

The area is also served by nearby ferry connections to Dunoon and the area serves as the gateway to Argyll through ferry services at nearby Gourrock.

Greenock is also on the scenic coastal route to Ayrshire and The Isle of Arran within easy reach.

The James Watt Dock is the only marina within Greenock and one of two within Inverclyde. It provides 170 pontoon berths and has become a regular location for superyachts from around the world thanks to its deep water, facilities and transport connections.

At Greenock Ocean Terminal the port became the first in the country to breach the 100,000 passenger mark for cruise ship passengers and prior to the covid lockdown was on course to surpass that number.

Work is underway to deliver a new cruise visitor centre in Greenock and a new pontoon is already in use for visiting cruise ships extending the quayside and continue to grow the business to welcome, post covid, up to 150,000 passengers with the potential to generate up to £26m of value to the Scottish economy through the cruise market.

Greenock is one of the very few places in the country outside of the Cities with a daily newspaper operating six days-a-week. The Greenock Telegraph, known locally as the 'tele' was founded in 1857 and was the first 'halfpenny' daily newspaper in Britain. It still incorporates The Clyde Shipping Gazette and the Variorum column is the world's oldest newspaper column.

Our visitor attractions and events

Across Greenock you will find glimpses of the history of the area surrounding you and in a range of fascinating visitor attractions.

The Watt Institution is home to the McLean Museum and Art Gallery and the Watt Library.

The James Watt Library was built in 1837 with the museum and hall constructed in the same style in 1876. The museum, known as the McLean Museum and Art Gallery, is the main museum in the Inverclyde area and has many wonderful collections for the visitor to discover and explore.

The displays feature an outstanding art collection, items related to the engineer James Watt, displays on Inverclyde's maritime and industrial traditions as well as world cultures, Egyptology and natural history.

The Watt Library contains many of the town's records and is of great interest for anyone wanting to trace their families in the local area.

A large marble statue of James Watt by Sir Francis Chantrey stands within.

Greenock's Esplanade is just over a mile long, and is a popular walk with river views. Originally the gardens of the mansions on the Esplanade ran down to the water's edge. The Esplanade road and walkway were then built using materials from the Albert Harbour. Walking along the Esplanade you will see many of the mansions built by the wealthy merchants and business families of the town.

The church at The Esplanade, now known as the Lyle Kirk, was founded in 1591 and originally built in the middle of the town. It was moved stone by stone to its present location in 1925 - 1928. The reason for this is that in 1917 Harland & Wolff bought Caird Shipbuilders' yard in Greenock and wished to extend.

The Church is home to what is considered some of the finest stained glass and attracts attention from all over the world.

Greenock's former fire station in the Municipal Buildings has been converted into a fire museum and is the only one of its kind in the country.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Museum and Heritage Centre is a four star visitor attraction and run by volunteers to preserve, restore and conserve vintage fire engines, firefighting equipment and uniforms.

Cathcart Square was the civic and commercial heart of Greenock. The church, known locally as the 'Toon Kirk' was built in 1760 with its 146 foot high steeple added in 1787. A handsome classical church, its iconic portico and steeple were modelled on St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London.

The horseshoe embedded between the church and the fountain was the location for hangings and public floggings.

The ornate Lyle central fountain was gifted to the town by Provost Abram Lyle in 1880. It was designed by Mr F.A. Scudamore of Coventry. Bronze shields which bear the crests of the Ardgowan and Cartsburn families and 16 other prominent families of Greenock can be seen above the fountain.

The fountain has recently been given a complete refurbishment to bring it back to its former glory as a centrepiece in the town.

Abram Lyle was a successful business owner born in Greenock in 1820 and was a partner in the largest shipping fleet in Greenock, transporting sugar from the West Indies.

With four business partners Lyle bought the Glebe Sugar refinery in 1865. He was the Provost of Greenock from 1876 - 1879.

The Beacon Arts Centre is a multi-million pound investment in a flagship arts hub sitting on the banks of the Clyde at Greenock and welcoming touring companies and home grown artists to perform and exhibit.

Greenock is also home to the Coves Community Park and Local Nature Reserve parkland surround local Coves Reservoir and incorporating the Scheduled monument the location of Larkfield heavy anti-aircraft battery, dating to the Second World War.

The battery consists of a command post, several gun emplacements and a number of associated buildings. The site is located on a plateau overlooking Greenock, Gourock and the Clyde Estuary at around 90m above sea level.

The battery now lies in an area of scrubland adjacent to the Coves Reservoirs. The site consisted of a command post, four upstanding gun emplacements with two further gun emplacements surviving as scrub-covered mounds of rubble, two visible 'holdfasts', two ammunition magazines, two outbuildings and a single gun store for small arms.

Greenock hosts unique events in the Scottish calendar including the annual Galoshans festival which takes a uniquely Greenockian word for Hallowe'en and the arts community has built an exciting annual festival around it.

Though technically in Greenock, Battery Park becomes a part of Gourock each May as the home of the first Highland Games and outdoor piping event of the Scottish season with the Gourock Highland Games which, pre-covid was regularly receiving attendances of over 10,000 people with an increasing number of visitors from overseas.

The links to Robert Burns

While there is no evidence that The Bard visited Greenock, its links to Robert Burns resonate to this day right around the world.

Greenock is home to the Burns Mother Club where on the 21st July 1801, the anniversary of Burns' death - the Greenock Burns Club and Ayrshire Society was founded. The purpose of the club was to honour the memory of Robert Burns and encourage the reading and understanding of his works.

On 29th January 1802, the club held its first anniversary dinner where 40 members sat down to a sumptuous repast and began the annual celebration of a 'Burns Supper' which continues to this day to memorialise and remember the Poet across the globe.

Greenock is also the final resting place of Mary Campbell also known as Highland Mary and immortalised in poetry and song.

Mary's grave was a place of pilgrimage for Mary Todd Lincoln four years after her husband President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in the United States of America. Her visit to Greenock, part of a wider tour, was said to be because of her love for Burns' poems.

Women's football – first international

Greenock plays an important part in the development of women's football. For, 2022 marks 50 years since the first ever women's international football match took place between Scotland and England national teams at Ravenscraig Stadium in Greenock on 18 November 1972.

Our compassion

Inverclyde has a long tradition of being a welcoming place where community spirit links are very strong.

Compassionate Inverclyde takes the principles of Professor Allan Kellehear's Compassionate Cities approach to create a place of compassion towards death, dying and loss.

Compassionate Inverclyde has its roots in Greenock bringing together partner organisations including Ardgowan Hospice, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership and the voluntary sector to ensure members have the skills and support in place to ensure end of life care and that no one dies alone.

The impact of Covid and through to recovery

At the height of the pandemic Inverclyde was highlighted as the 'covid capital of Scotland' due to the high levels of infection rates and deaths.

Two of Inverclyde's residents were high profile in the national media as the first nurse to lose her life, Janice Graham, and the first teacher in the country, Gerry McHugh. The reaction to Janice and Gerry showed the heartache of the pandemic and the community spirit of Greenock and Inverclyde coming together to support each other through difficult times.

The pandemic showed agencies, individuals, including young people, volunteers and charities all working together to support each other and the wider community through the worst effects of the pandemic.

Prior to covid central Greenock was highlighted as the area of the country with the highest levels of deprivation.

Covid has shown that areas such as Greenock need greater resilience.

The council's covid recovery plans and the recovery plans developed by the Inverclyde Alliance community planning partnership have focussed on getting people and communities out of poverty to build that resilience.

They also significantly target jobs and employability and supporting people to access services and opportunities to increase community wealth building.

Going forward Greenock and Inverclyde's focus will be on recovering from the pandemic and ensuring that its communities are more resilient going forward.

Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee - Meliora

Greenock and Inverclyde are already planning to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and to align it with covid recovery plans to host a two-month 'Meliora' festival in May and June.

Meliora, meaning "better" will include events leading up to, during and beyond the weekend of the Platinum Jubilee.

Schools will be closed for the four-day weekend and the festival will include the lighting of the Beacon at Lyle Hill and a range of activities to commemorate the Jubilee.

Greenock will in May 2022 host the British Pipe Band Championships at Battery Park, one of the five Scottish piping Majors and the first in the annual calendar. This will also be the first Major Championships to be staged in Scotland since the start of the Covid Pandemic.

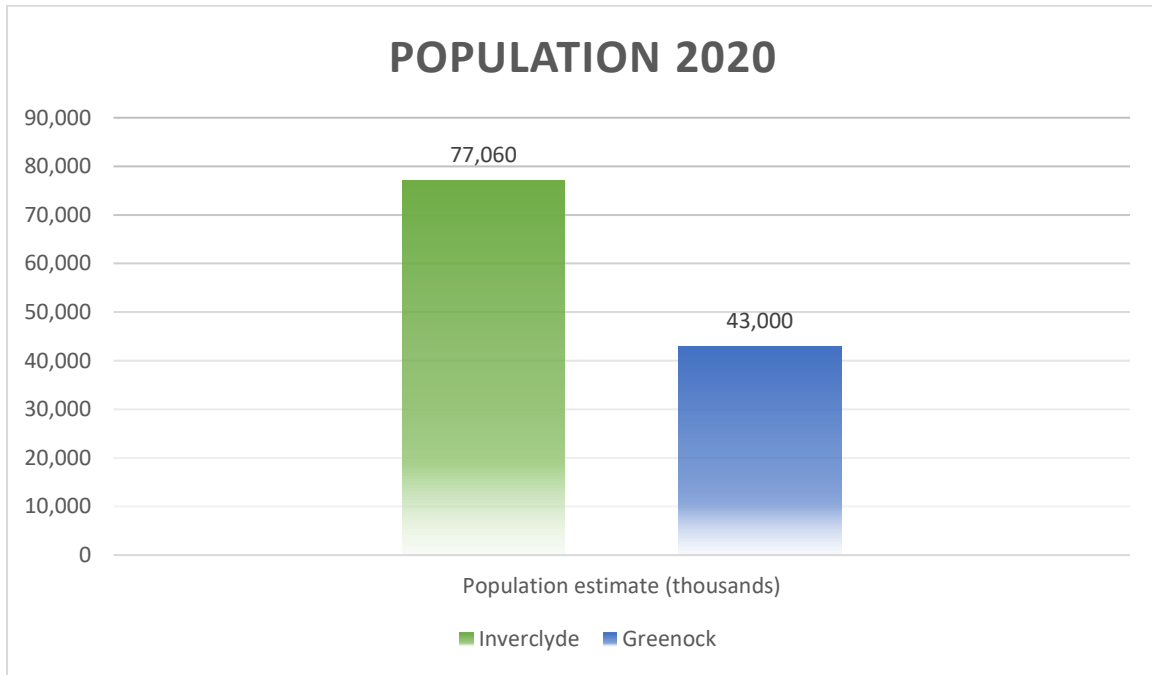
In addition to hosting the British Pipe Band Championships, the area will start the Scottish Piping and Highland Games season with the Gourrock Highland Games at Battery Park which is traditionally the first Games of the Scottish season held on the second Sunday in May

In June, following the Platinum Jubilee weekend, as part of the wider festival a brand new outdoor sport and leisure event will be staged using fun and challenging obstacles with a special free event for school pupils in partnership with arms-length trust Inverclyde Leisure.

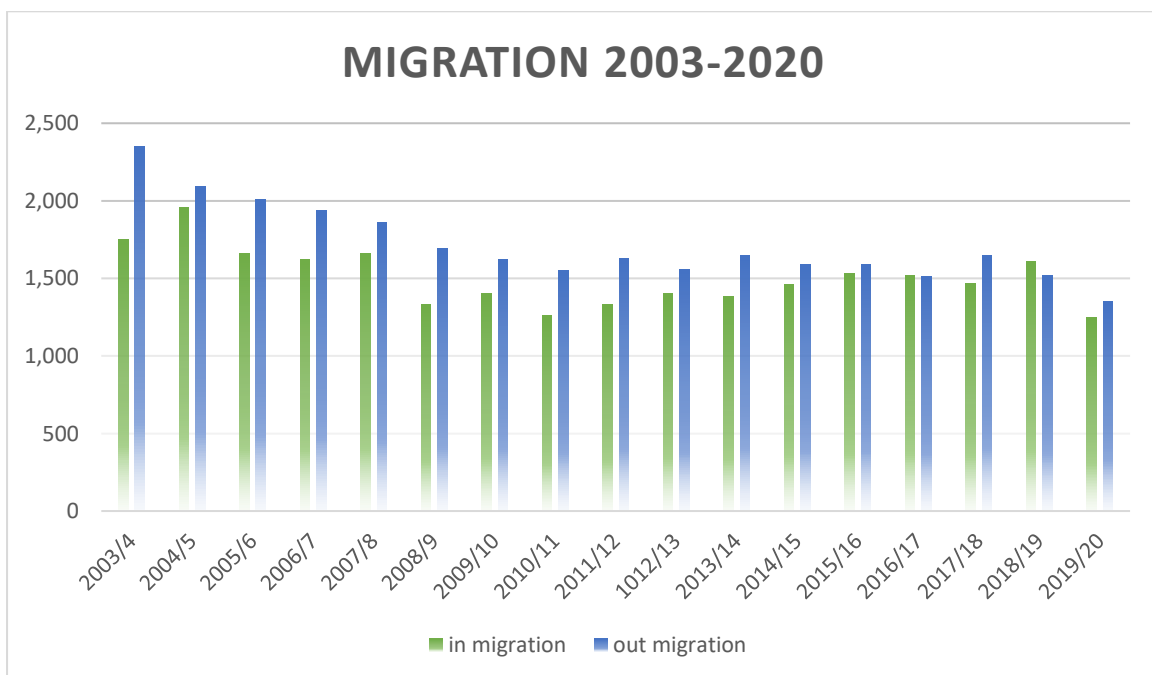
Also in June 2022 as the final part of the celebration a new arts festival is planned as part of the Meliora in partnership with the Beacon Arts Centre in Greenock to celebrate art and culture.

C) Profile

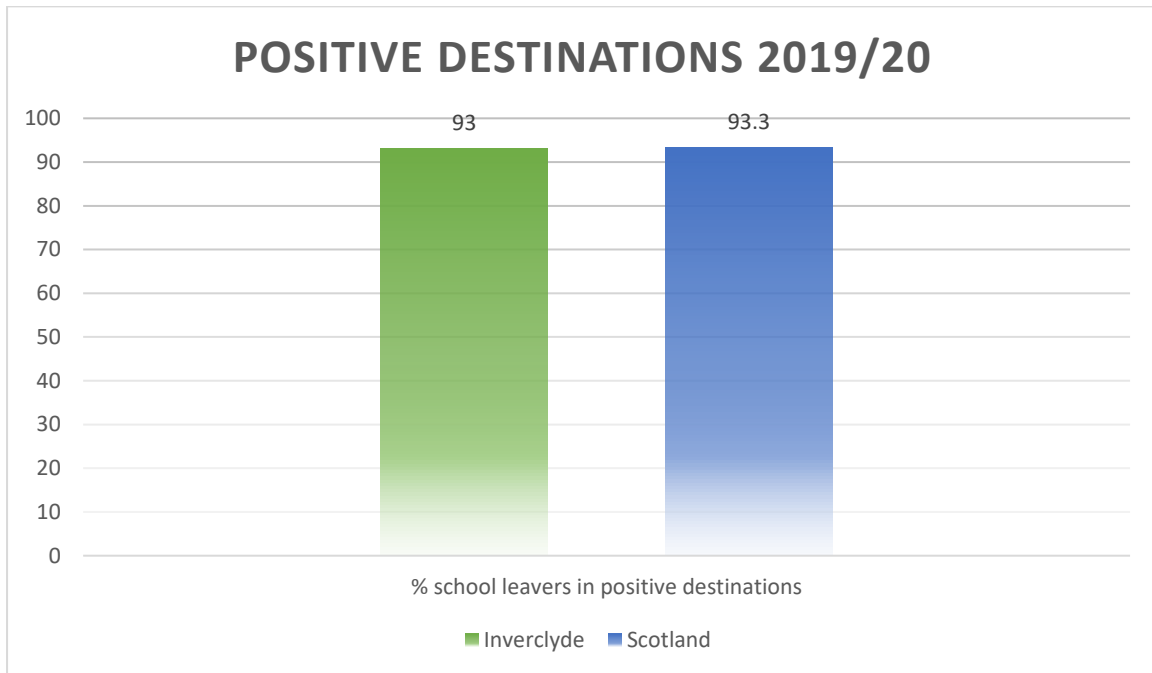
Statistical data covering Population; in and out migration; positive destinations; degree qualifications; employment and unemployment rate; quality work; gender employment gap; weekly earnings; children in poverty; fuel poverty; claimant count, workless households, new business start-ups and new enterprise survival; vehicle ownership; ultrafast broadband; new house and new social housing building and dwellings by type.



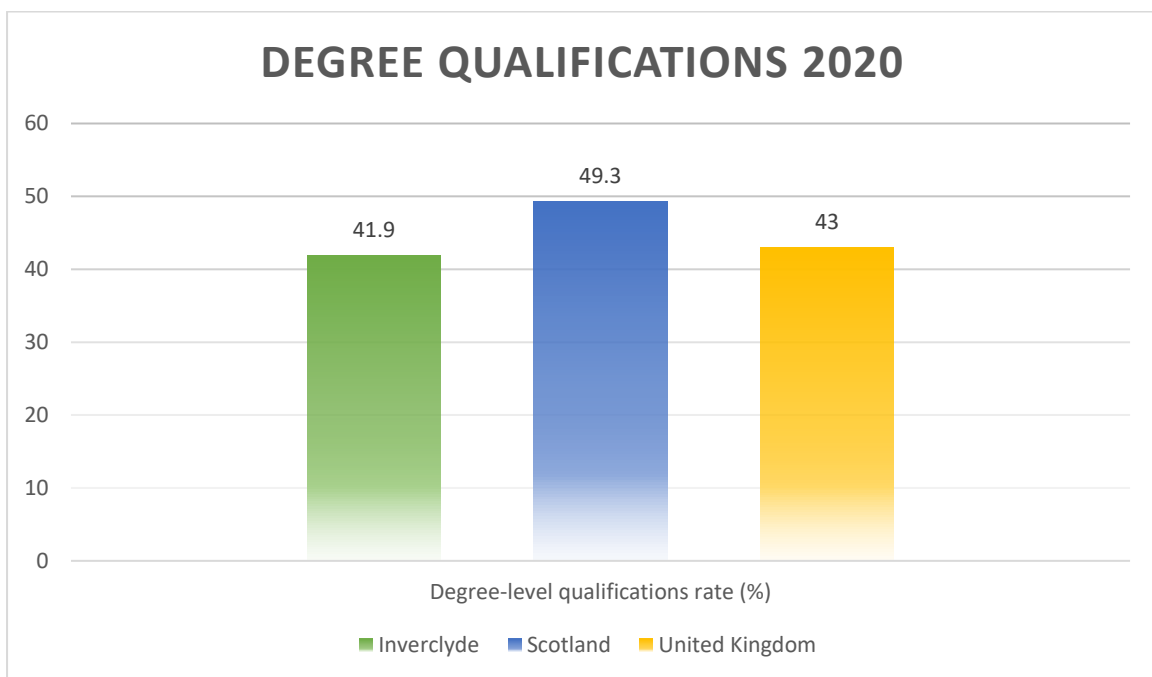
Source: National Records of Scotland



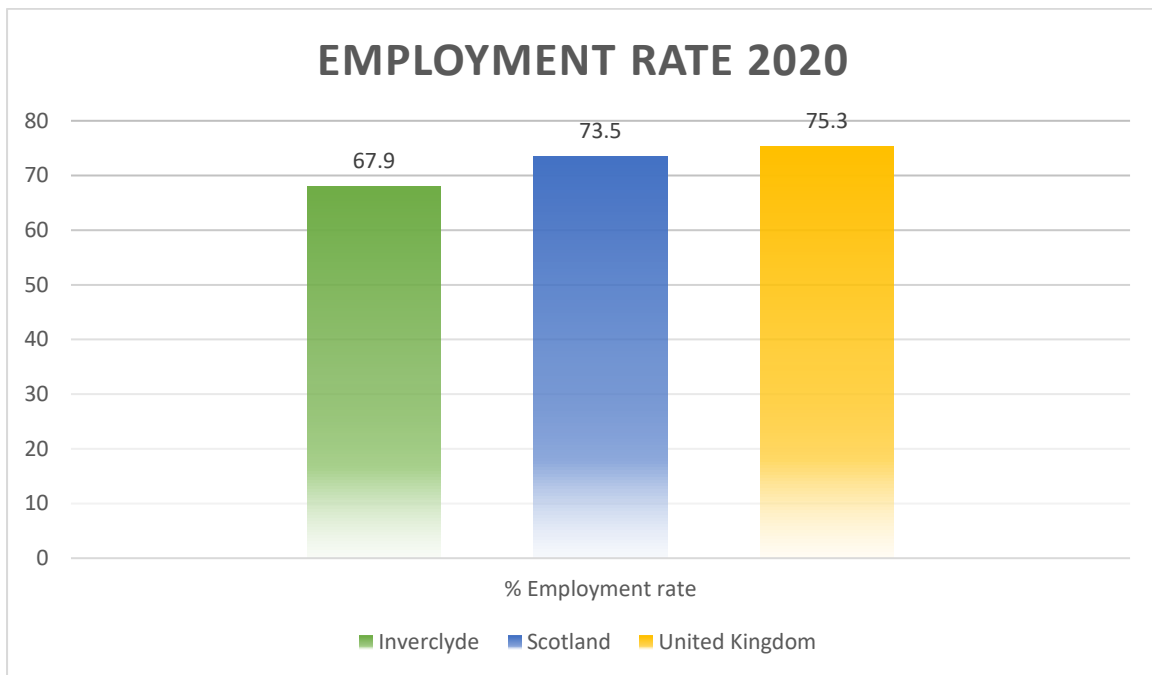
Source: National Records of Scotland



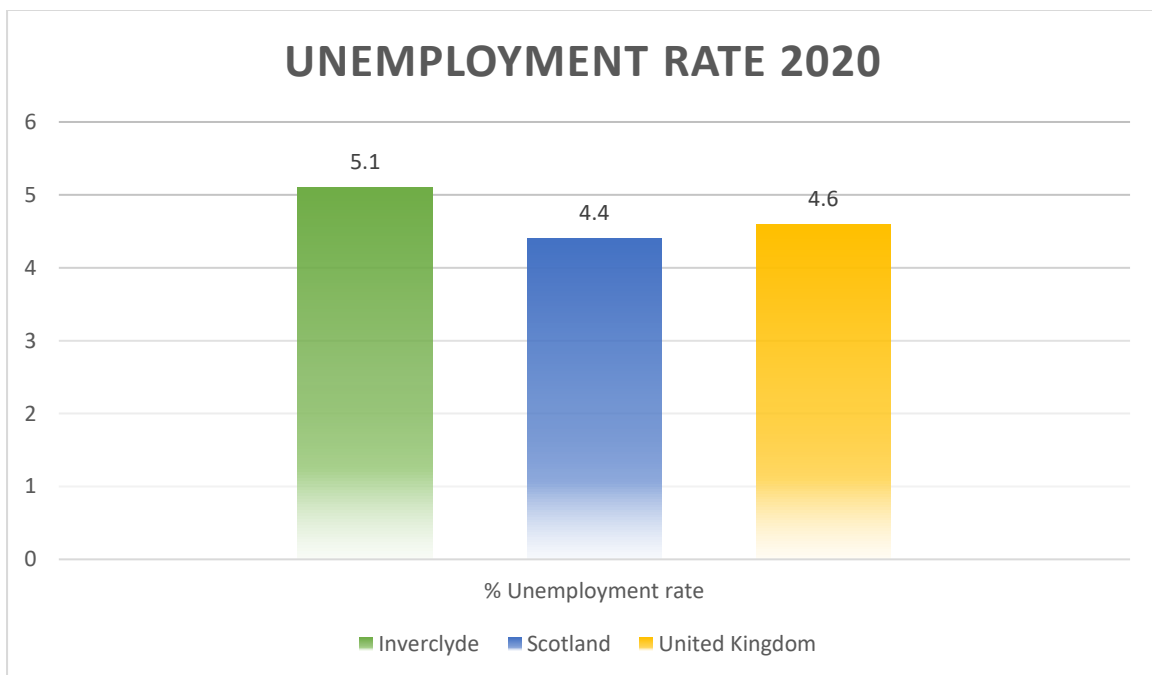
Source: End child poverty/City region data hub



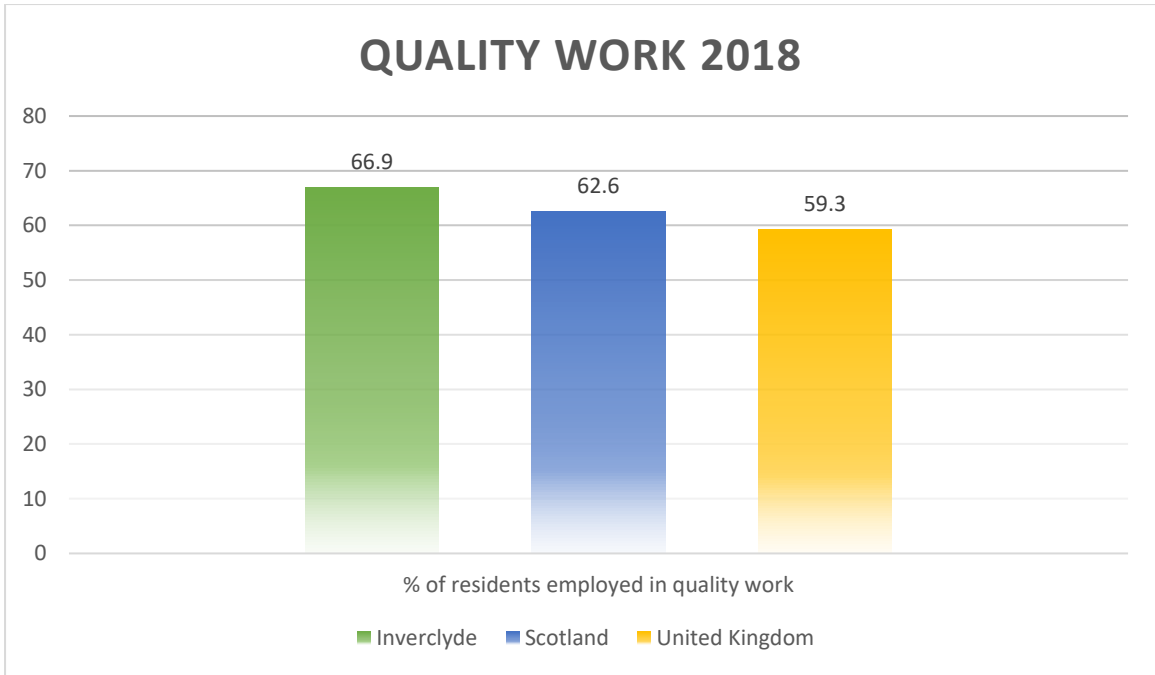
Source: Annual population survey 2021/City region data hub



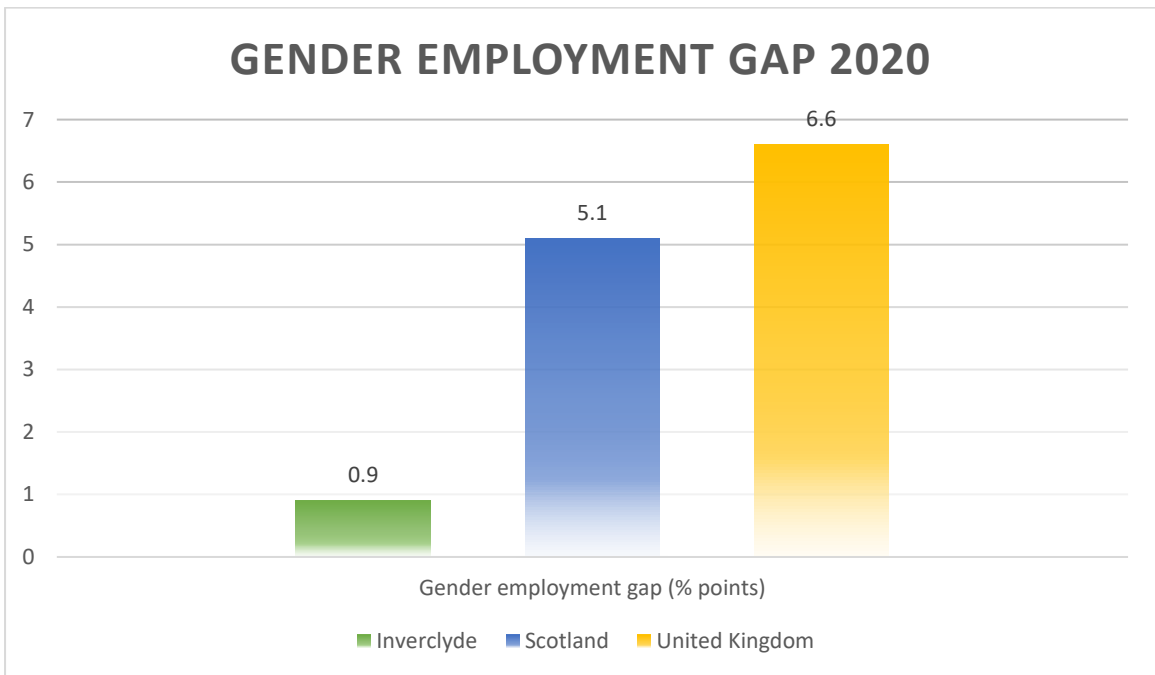
Source: Annual population survey 2021/City region data hub



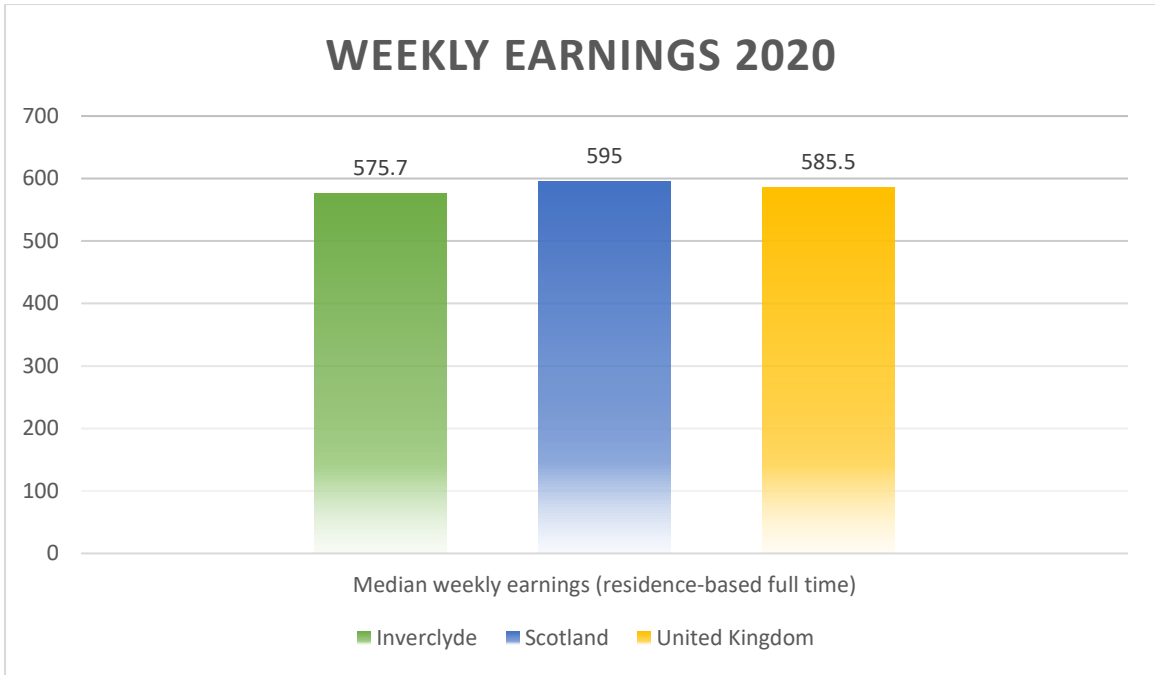
Source: Annual population survey 2021/City region data hub



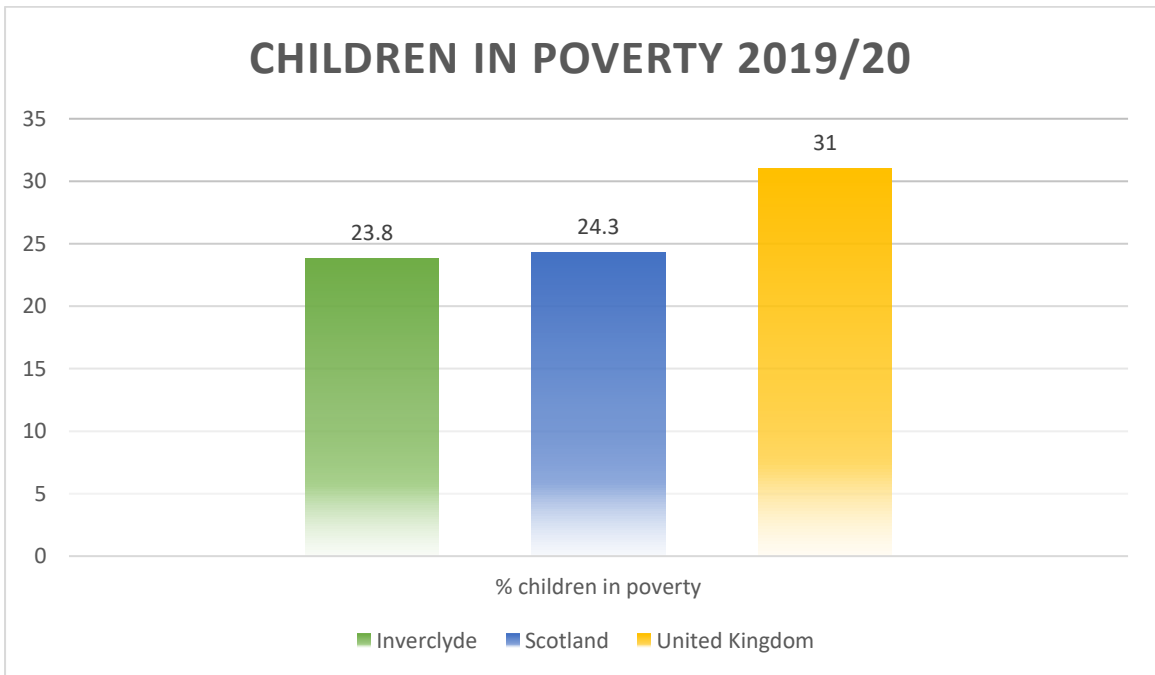
Source: ONS Quality Work/City region data hub



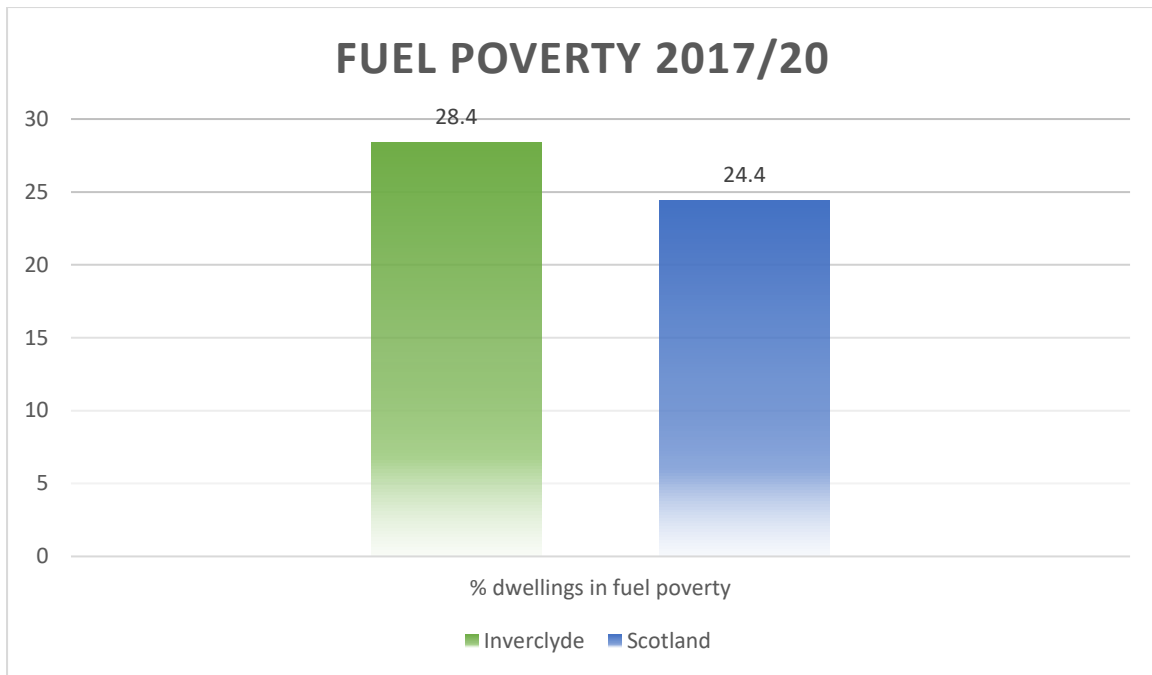
Source: Annual population survey 2021/City region data hub



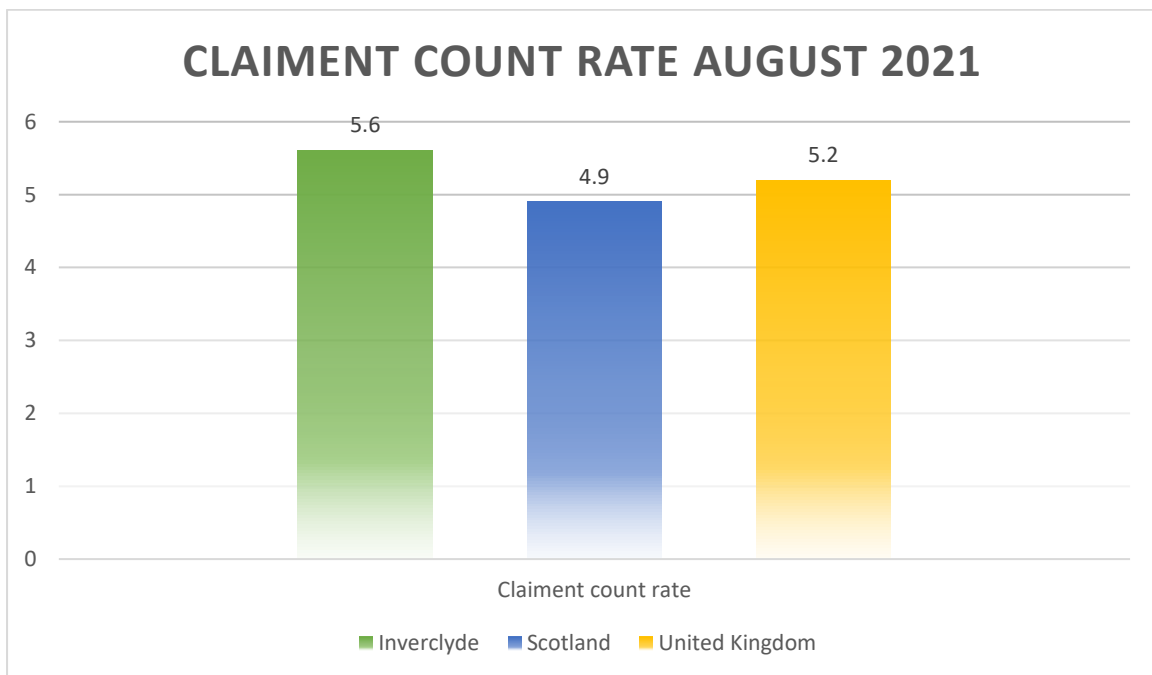
Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)/City region data hub



Source: End child poverty/City region data hub

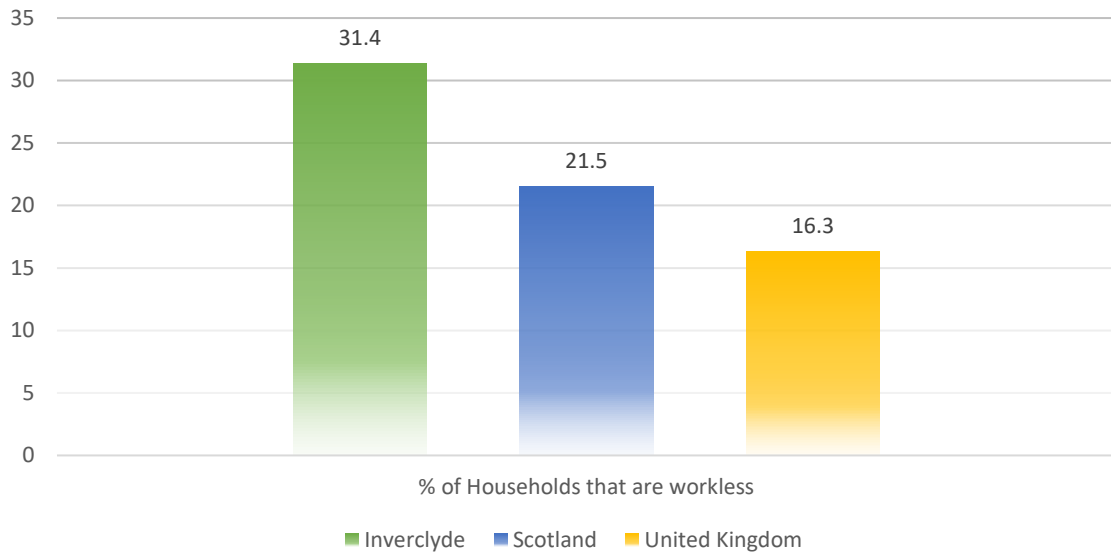


Source: Scottish household condition survey: local authority analysis/City region data hub



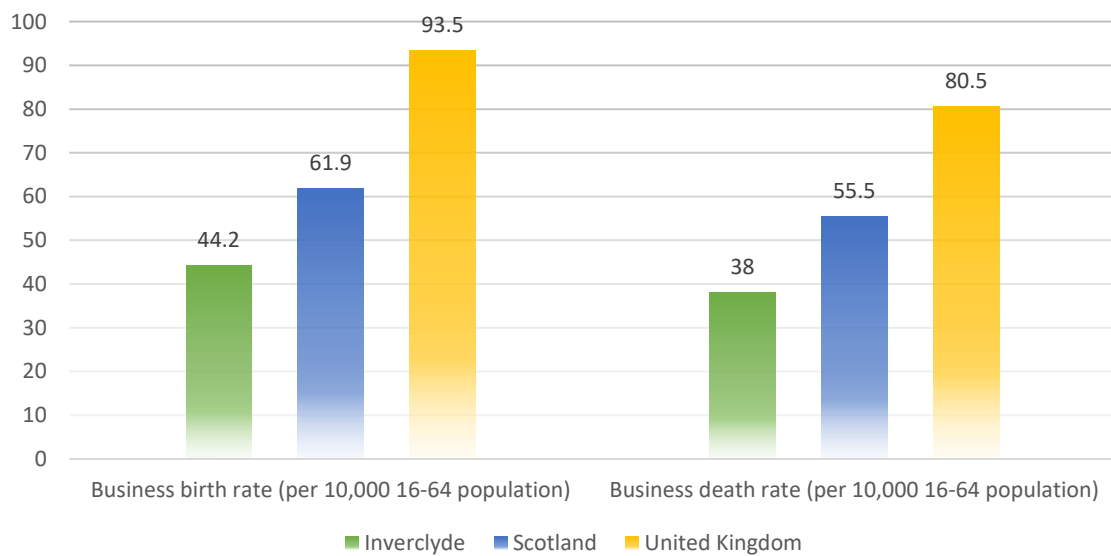
Source: NOMIS claimant count/City region data hub

WORKLESS HOUSEHOLDS 2019

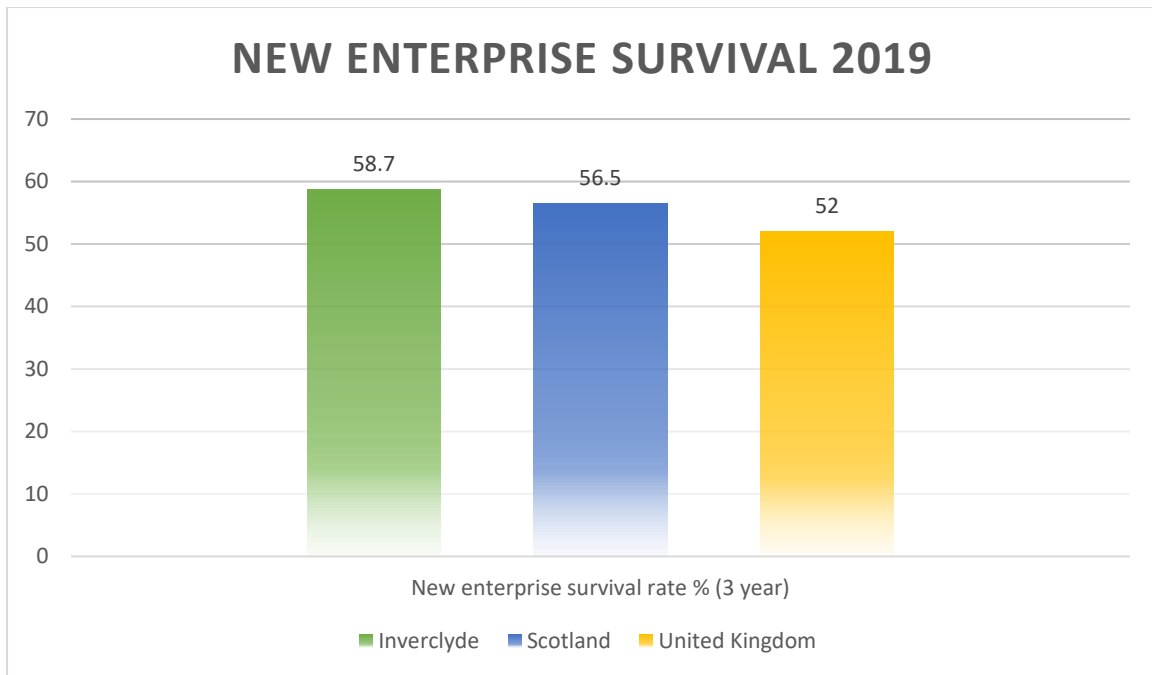


Source: ONS – households by combined economic activity/City region data hub

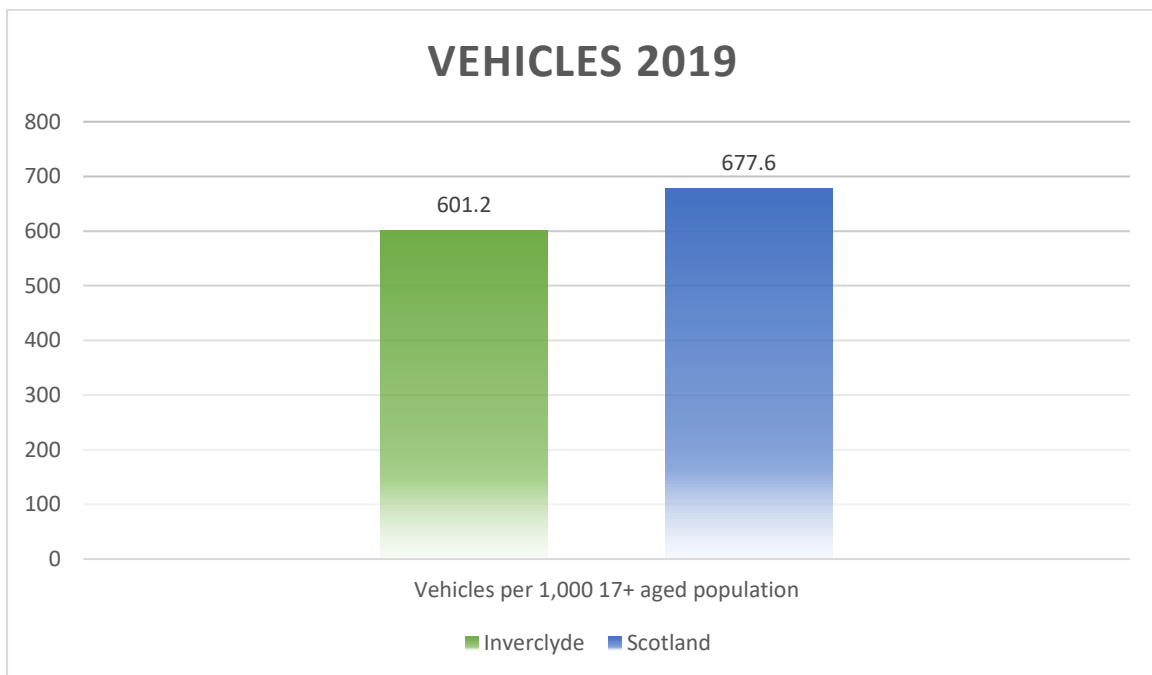
BUSINESS BIRTH AND DEATHS 2019



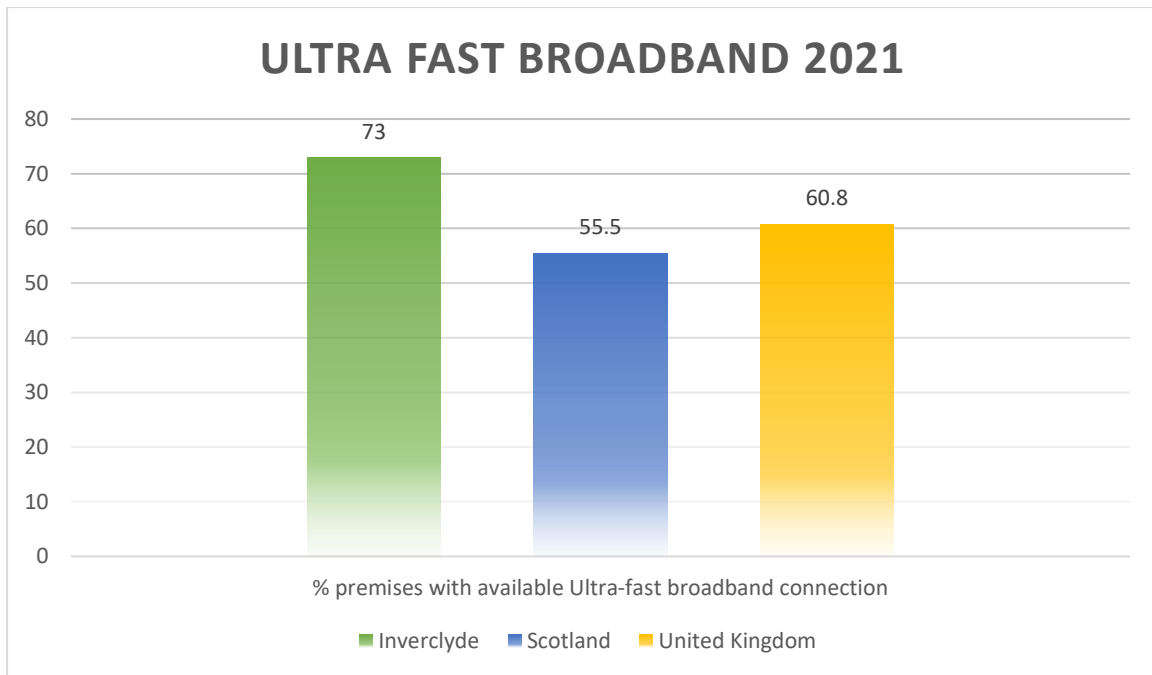
Source: Business Demography/City region data hub



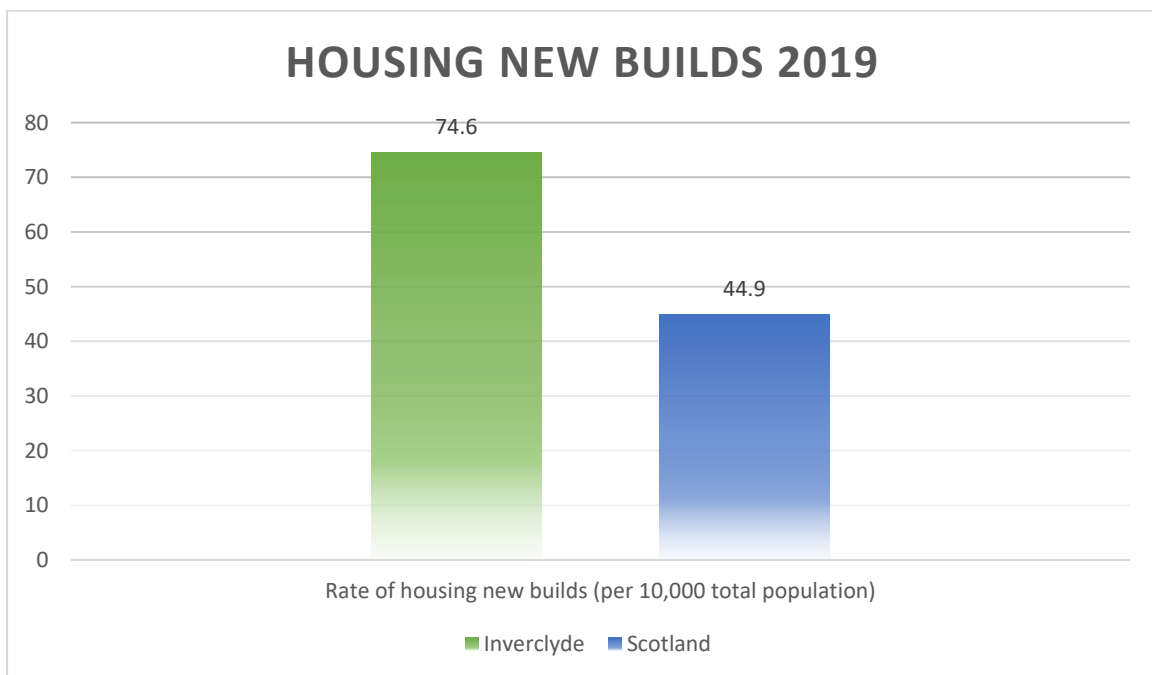
Source: Business Demography/City region data hub



Source: Transport Scotland Scottish Transport Statistics/City region data hub

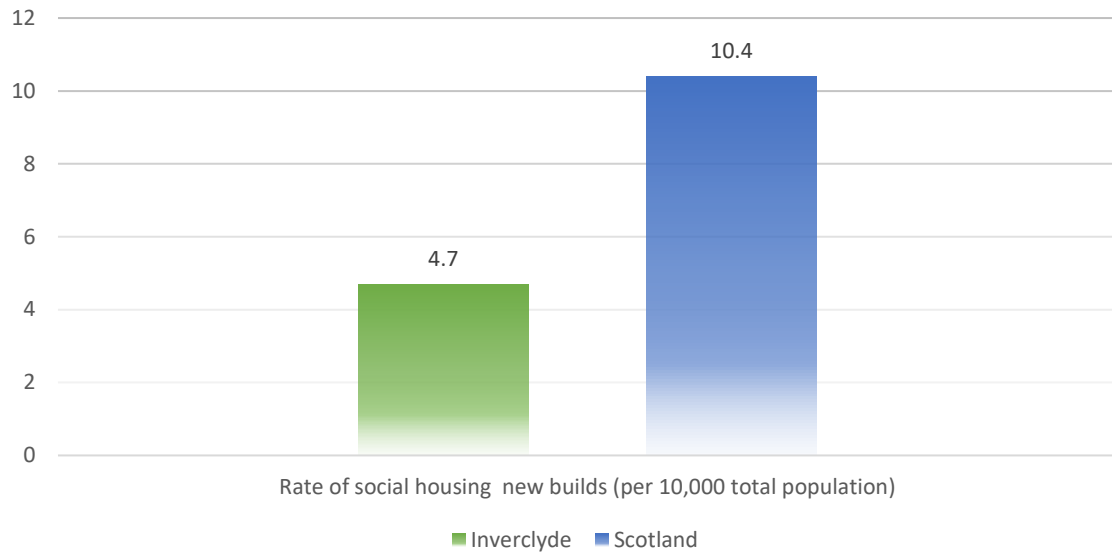


Source: Transport Scotland Scottish Transport Statistics/City region data hub



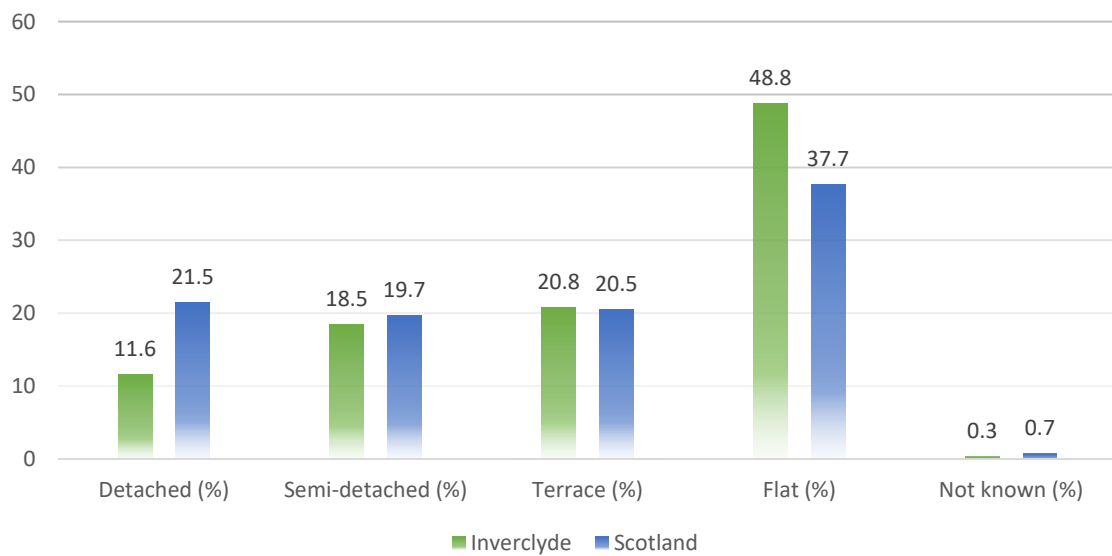
Source: Scottish Government – Housing Quarterly/City region data hub

SOCIAL HOUSING NEW BUILDS 2020



Source: Scottish Government – Housing Quarterly/City region data hub

DWELLINGS BY TYPE 2020



Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS)

d) Photographs



Lyle Hill sits at the west end of Greenock and is one of the most scenic locations in the area. It was named after former Provost of the district and sugar refiner (half of the famous Tate and Lyle brand). The highest point is known as Craig's Top and provides panoramic views across the firth of Clyde towards Dunoon and the Holy Loch.

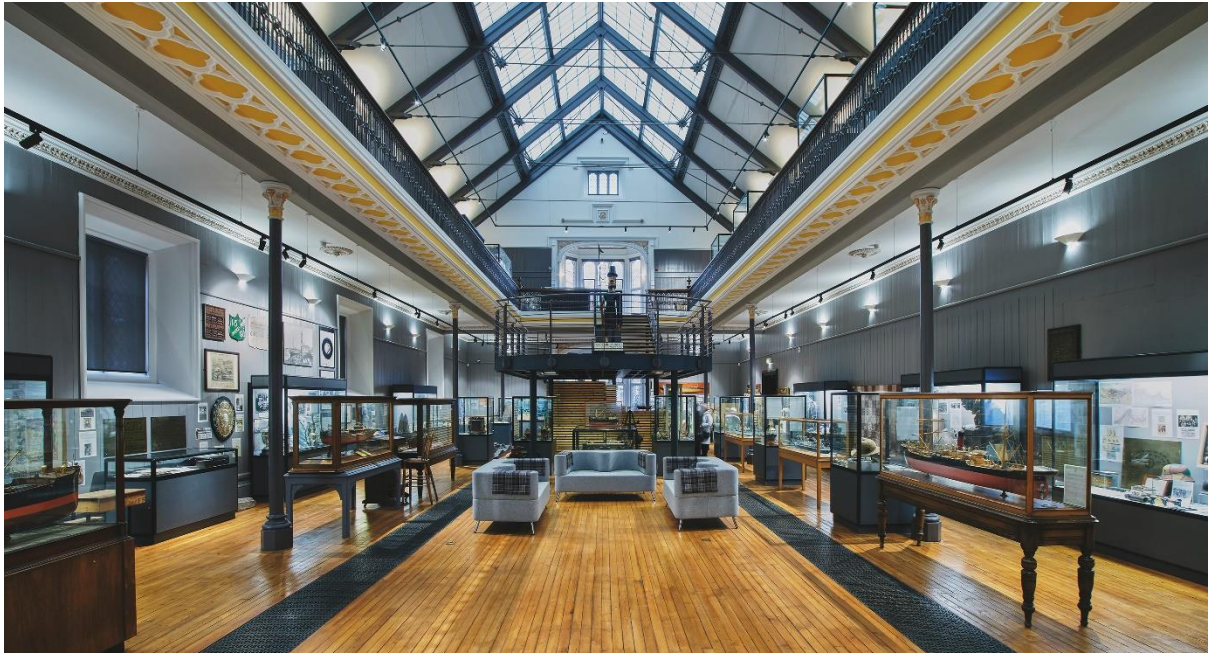


The Free French Memorial at Lyle Hill is one of the most iconic structures in Greenock and it memorialises the connection with the Free French forces stationed in Greenock during WWII. It comprises The Cross of Lorraine with flukes of an anchor, on a plinth of stone blocks.

The memorial includes tablets translated in both English and French reading:

“This monument is dedicated to the memory of the sailors of the Free French Naval Forces who sailed from Greenock in the years 1940-1945 and gave their lives in the Battle of the Atlantic for the liberation of France and the success of the Allied cause.”

“This memorial was designed and erected by the officers and men of the French Naval Base at Greenock with the help of subscriptions raised among the crews of the Free French Naval Forces.”



The Watt Institution is named after the world-renowned inventor and son of Greenock, James Watt. The Watt Institution and its collections are a national treasure and Inverclyde's key heritage attraction. Situated in the west end of Greenock it brings together the McLean Museum and Art Gallery, the Watt Library, Inverclyde Archives and the Watt Hall in a wonderful, Grade A listed building, designed by Sir Edward Blore, who was responsible for completing John Nash's design for Buckingham Palace.



The Watt Library is part of the Watt Institution and is a direct descendant of the Greenock Library founded in 1783 of which James Watt was a patron. The library houses important archives and records and is home to a statue of Watt designed by Sir Francis Chantrey.



The Beacon Arts Centre is a 500 seat contemporary theatre and arts venue sitting on the banks of Clyde providing a focal point for arts activity in the area. The gallery space features work from local and national artists and boasts the best view in Inverclyde too over the firth of Clyde.



Custom House Quay is an architectural jewel in the crown of Greenock. This classically proportioned building was home to the vigilant assize men who policed Scotland's burgeoning trade with the world. It witnessed the rise and fall of the tobacco, sugar and shipbuilding industries in the town. Designed by William Burns and opened in 1814, the building was restored in 2017 and is now home to thriving international businesses.



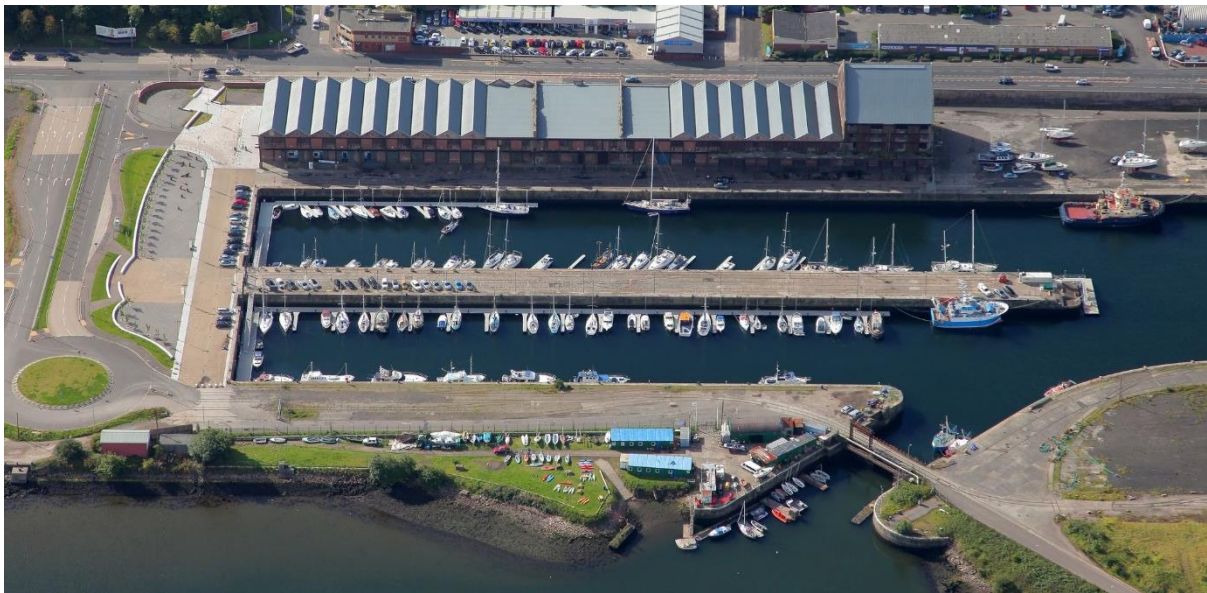
The Greenock Burns Exhibition and Archive is based in the historic Custom House building. The Burns room provides a location for the Greenock Mother Club's collection of books, photographs and other memorabilia collected by members and friends over the past 200+ years.



PS Waverley, the last seagoing paddle steamer in the world is a regular visitor at Greenock's Custom House Quay as part of their season of trips and tours around the waters of the west of Scotland.



A new cruise ship visitor centre (artist's impression) is currently under construction and planned to open in 2022 to welcome the 120,000 plus cruise visitors to Scotland. The centre will also provide a new arts space for travelling exhibitions and a centre for the Wyllie Foundation, which celebrates the work of sculptor George Wyllie.



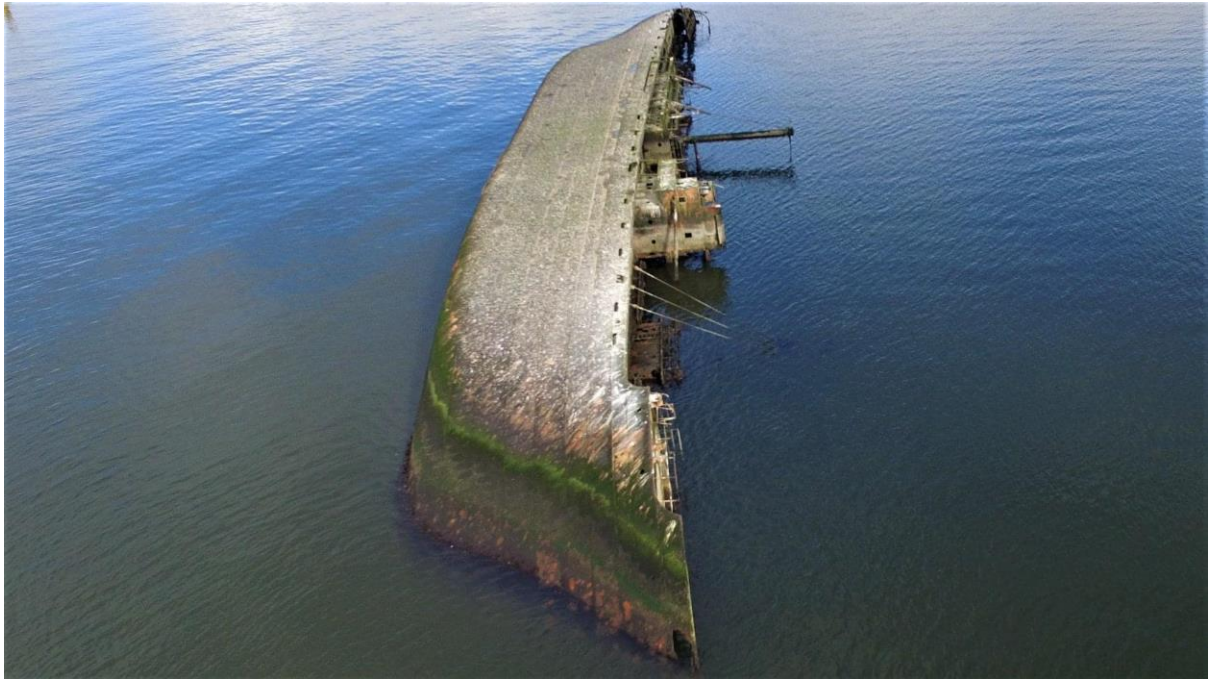
James Watt Dock offers up to 170 pontoon berths for craft ranging in size from 7m to 100m plus within a historic dock setting with full deep-water access and marina facilities.



The Titan Crane at James Watt Dock is an iconic structure and a visible reminder of the area's shipbuilding heritage. It also connects the area with other parts of the Clyde's shipbuilding heritage, notably the Titan Cranes in Clydebank and Glasgow.



James Watt Dock in Greenock has become a regular port call for Superyachts from around the world travelling to Scotland and the United Kingdom.



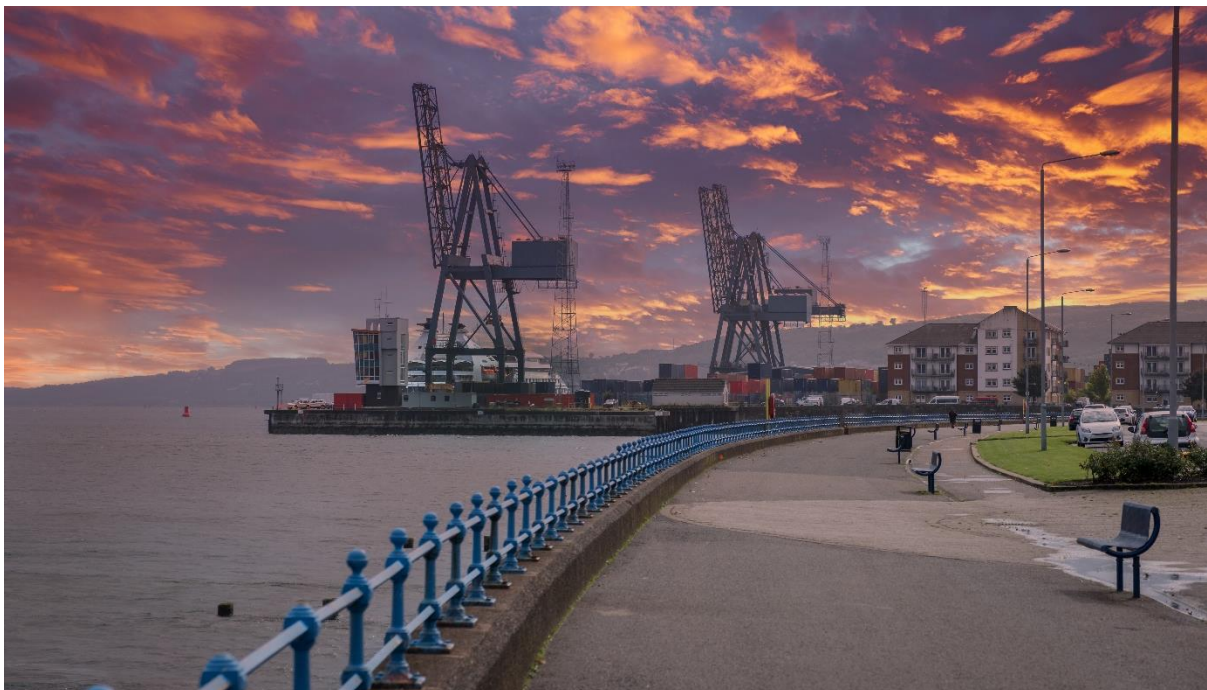
In January 1974, the MV Captayannis took the full force of a storm and sank in the waters off Greenock. The ship's cargo of raw sugar has meant that the wreck, which has been left and poses no danger to shipping, has become known locally as the 'Sugar Boat' and is an attraction for sailing tours by local companies including Clyde Charters.



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Museum and Heritage Centre is a four-star visitor attraction charting the fire services of the country. It is housed within the Greenock Municipal Buildings in the location of the original fire station.



Inverclyde Municipal Buildings has been the municipal and administrative heart of Greenock since its completion in 1880. The building surrounds the Greenock Town Hall in the centre, has been home to a court, fire and police services, and is currently the headquarters of Inverclyde Council.



Greenock Esplanade is a mile long waterfront walkway enjoyed by local people and visitors alike for its views and its history. Officially opened in July 1867, the Esplanade was built with spoil from the excavation of the Albert Harbour in Greenock.



The Albany Theatre is housed in the refurbished Orangefield Baptist Church, Greenock. It is a multi-facility venue which boasts a unique theatre space, dance academy, bar, cafe/brasserie.



Greenock Ocean Terminal (container terminal) is Scotland's leading west coast container terminal, with a 16 hectare site Greenock Ocean Terminal and is responsible for the safe handling of a throughput of 100,000 containers a year.



Situated in the heart of Inverclyde's historic water catchment area, the Greenock Cut is a scheduled monument with fantastic views and trails enjoyed for walking and cycling.



In recent years the cruise market to Scotland has grown in popularity with Greenock becoming the first port to breach the 100,000 passenger mark. Plans are in place to build on that popularity. Greenock's welcome has become legendary and award winning for cruise passengers visiting Scotland.



Wellpark Mid Kirk stands at the heart of Greenock, looking down William Street and the site of James Watt's earliest years. The internal square layout, with seating positioned to fit a plan provided by James Watt's father, gives the feeling of intimacy.

On Sunday 18 August 1991, the Mid Kirk of Greenock celebrated their 250th anniversary and since then this Grade A-listed building had a complete restoration in 1999 with assistance from Historic Scotland. The pipe organ was built in 1867, enlarged in 1912 and restored with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2008.



Wellpark is a central park in Greenock in an elevated position overlooking the town and waterfront. It is home to a grand war memorial, which is the focal point of the town's annual Remembrance commemorations.



Water sports and activities take place across the waterfront in Greenock ranging from kayaking to wild swimming.



Ginger the horse is a statue in Greenock town centre. Ginger was a working horse in 1889 who drowned in the Albert Harbour while transporting a cargo of sugar when a cartwheel caught on a mooring stanchion.



Lyle Fountain is a 141-year-old fountain gifted to Greenock by Abram Lyle, the founder of the Lyle sugar refinery which would later merge with Henry Tate's refinery to form Tate & Lyle, which is a brand known around the world to this day. He served as provost from 1876 to 1879 before moving to London to set up a refinery producing golden syrup.

The circular fountain is capped with an ornamental dome featuring the crests of 18 prominent families of Greenock including Ardgowan, Watt and Morton. It is currently undergoing restoration to bring it back to its former glory.



The Dutch Gable House is an iconic and unusual building in Greenock's historic William Street town quarter. The rear of the building allows access to the oldest surviving house in the town.



The Watt Statue at the corner of William Street in the town marks the birthplace of James Watt.



Battery Park sits on the border between Greenock and Gourock overlooking the Clyde with stunning views across to the Argyll hills. Its facilities include all weather floodlit pitches and full sized sports pitches used throughout the season. It also the first choice location for large-scale events including the annual Gourock Highland Games which marks the start of the Scottish outdoor piping and Games season in Scotland.



The Tontine Hotel is a 210-year-old Georgian townhouse hotel rich in stunning character and history with original features located in the heart of Greenock with convenient travel links and shopping facilities close by. It offers a restaurant, two bars, and functions rooms.



Glenpark Cricket Ground's first recorded match came in 1869 when Greenock played the Players of Scotland.



The Radical War, also known as the 'Scottish Insurrection', is regarded by many as the birth of trade unionism. A key event of the Radical War took place in the very heart of Greenock in 1820. In Bank Street, memorials are in place which marks the occasion the day in which eight people were tragically killed and ten more suffered life-changing injuries.



The Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club Club was founded in 1866 by the owners of houses on the Esplanade in Greenock. As a result of the construction of the Esplanade they lost direct access to the river from their gardens and needed somewhere to keep and launch boats from. They formed the West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club and constructed the clubhouse. In 1885, the Club was granted the Royal Charter after providing a boat that was used to row Queen Victoria on Loch Maree, during one of her summer tours of the Highlands.



Greenock plays an important part in the development of women's football. For, 2022 marks 50 years since the first ever women's international football match took place between Scotland and England national teams at Ravenscraig Stadium in Greenock on 18 November 1972.



The term 'Going Galoshans' has long been used by residents of Greenock and Inverclyde to describe guising door to door around Hallowe'en time - dressing up and delivering a skit or play, this tradition often centred around the characters of the Galoshans story – an activity we now recognise as modern-day Trick or Treating.

The annual Galoshans Festival is a celebration of this local heritage to encourage a new generation to keep this lyrical local term and tradition of folk performance alive through arts and cultural activity in October and November.

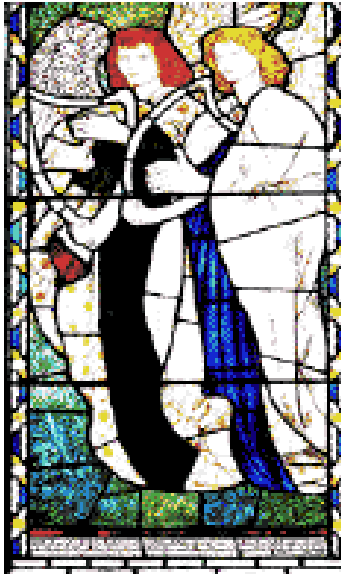
Greenock Cemetery overlooks Greenock on the Clyde and is the largest cemetery containing graves from both world wars in Scotland.

The graves include 100 burials of the First World War, including an unidentified British soldier, and a further 170 of the Second World War.

It is also part of the Commonwealth War Graves.



Since the opening in 2014, Belville Community Garden has developed a status within the community as a central food growing hub, organising and coordinating community groups and schools in growing projects. The garden's sit on a brown filed site in Greenock which use to house 7 high rise tenement flats which were originally built in the 1960's and were demolished from 2013 to 2015.



The Old West Kirk in Greenock possesses a notable collection of stained glass windows, as fine as any to be seen in much larger buildings. In all, there are 16 "illuminated" windows of one, two, three and four panels (or lights) mostly donated as Memorial tributes.

This collection was started by Mr. Allan Park Paton when the Old West Kirk was restored and re-opened in 1864, after a closure of 23 years.

These windows are said to be among some of the finest examples of modern stained glass and have attracted attention from many parts of the world.

The images above are (left) "MUSIC" by Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones and (right) "CHRIST TEACHING MARY" and "CHRIST BLESSING A CHILD" made by Ballantyne & Co.

Greenock is also home to the Coves Community Park and Local Nature Reserve parkland surround local Coves Reservoir and incorporating the Scheduled monument the location of Larkfield heavy anti-aircraft battery, dating to the Second World War.

The battery consists of a command post, several gun emplacements and a number of associated buildings. The site is located on a plateau overlooking Greenock, Gourrock and the Clyde Estuary at around 90m above sea level.

The battery now lies in an area of scrubland adjacent to the Coves Reservoirs. The site consisted of a command post, four upstanding gun emplacements with two further gun emplacements surviving as scrub-covered mounds of rubble, two visible 'holdfasts', two ammunition magazines, two outbuildings and a single gun store for small arms.





Greenock's connections with the sea include links through its nearby towns with Inverclyde boasting a second Marina at Inverkip, just a few miles south of Greenock's James Watt Dock, which can host up to 150 boats and is host to Scotland's annual boat show, the premier event of its kind in the country.



Within easy reach to Greenock is one of Scotland's most admired and unique swimming venues with Gourock outdoor pool taking its heated outdoor water from the river it overlooks with stunning views across the firth of Clyde to the Argyll Hills.

e) Map of Greenock's main attractions



