

HOW TO STAY COOL

Tips on exam studies

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SCHOOL INVESTMENT

Programme continues

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BUDGET UPDATE

Focus on savings and investment

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Two year budget agreed



The budget for 2015/16 was set and an indicative budget for 2016/17 agreed unanimously.

The revenue budget for next year will deliver over £91m for education, communities and organisational development; nearly £49m for health and social care services and £31m for environment, regeneration and resources.

There will also be additional areas of investment including services to school children with additional support needs; increasing the school clothing grant per child for the next four years; an increase by 20 per cent in the value of Christmas vouchers for older people from and to double the lowest council apprentice wage rate.

Bowling club improvements will be boosted; there'll be an extra £120,000 for play areas and £300,000 for town and village centre environmental improvements.

Councillors have agreed savings totalling £4.1m for the second year with the temporary use of reserves agreed to deliver a total savings package of £7.4m for 2016/17.

Council leader, and proposer of the Council budget, Councillor Stephen McCabe said: "While the key focus on budgets is often in the savings and cuts, it is worth looking at the overall picture. The revenue budget for Inverclyde in the next year is £193m.

"These are challenging times but, with the overall budget spending in

place, the additional areas of investment and hard work to protect essential services, you can see we are still ambitious to make Inverclyde a better place for us all to live."

Depute Leader of Inverclyde Council, and seconder of the budget, Councillor Jim Clocherty, said: "This is a prudent budget with some difficult decisions behind it. But, those decisions have at their heart the views of the most important people – our residents, businesses and service users across Inverclyde."

The council budget also decided that the council tax will be frozen.

Attainment Challenge Accepted



Inverclyde Council schools will take part in the £20m Scottish Attainment Challenge aimed at closing the attainment gap in Scottish schools.

The council is joining with six other Scottish Councils to tap into the first batch of funding totalling £20m from the Scottish Government.

Inverclyde's Council leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe, said: "Bridging the attainment gap is absolutely critical to the success of our young people. When resources are being pressed it is important that we are tapping into additional funding when it is available and will add to the quality services already being delivered in our schools."

New name, same quality service

From Spring 2015, CHCP becomes HSCP, a new legal entity. You will start to see our new identity appear.



Green light for new £1.8 million community centre for Inverkip



Artist impression of new Inverkip community centre

New designs have been revealed and planning permission agreed for a brand new community centre for Inverkip.

This new £1.8m development is an investment in the Inverkip community and work could begin as early as May this year. Within the centre there is a multi-purpose hall with a 90-seat capacity with tables and storage facilities, space for a library facility, a meeting room, changing facilities and a small café and kitchen.

The new centre will also include a new five-a-side 3G sports pitch and community open space.

Inverclyde Council's Environment and Regeneration convener Councillor Michael McCormick said: "There has been a great deal of community involvement in this exciting project. The Council is investing in the new centre which will be at the heart of activities in Inverkip, providing a real focal point for everyone in the community."

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of InView

Council Leader
Councillor Stephen McCabe



Budget delivers savings and investment

The Council agreed a two year budget.

In this edition of InView, you will find updates in the centre pages.

Particular proposed budget savings in the second year were subject to Inverclyde's most extensive budget consultation.

It also resulted in a new cross party approach to examining the difficult decisions which lie ahead.

For me, and I know for the other members of the budget working group, working closely with the Council's corporate management team and our trade union colleagues, making sure we listened to the feedback from our citizens and businesses and working for the wider good of Inverclyde were key principles in that budget review.

There are only difficult decisions ahead for Scottish Councils and for other public services.

That's why it is crucially important that we recognise the value we deliver.

In the Council's budget for the next two years we are spending over £190m on public services in our community in each year.

That's money invested in schools, invested in roads and lighting, and invested in social work services. It's money invested in services, which affect every corner of Inverclyde, that touch every community.

Our school estate programme is still

the most ambitious in Scotland and is continuing apace. The refurbishments of Ardgowan and St John's primaries will be completed and work is starting on the refurbishment of Kilmaccolm primary with a new build for St Patrick's Primary School.

While the focus is rightly on areas we need to save, there are still areas where we are expanding the service to meet the needs of the community.

Funding has been earmarked for new community facilities in Inverkip, Woodhall and Broomhill and for the refurbishment of Ravenscraig Sports Centre. Plans are in place to build two new children's homes in Greenock and Port Glasgow to replace the outdated existing ones.

We are also continuing to invest in regeneration projects in Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow. Over the next two years we plan to spend over £16m on improving our roads, footways and street lighting and tackling the area's flooding problems.

These are challenging times for the Council. But, with the overall budget spending in place, the additional areas of investment and hard work to protect essential services as much as we can from the worst of cuts, you can see we are still ambitious to make Inverclyde a better place for us all to live and work.



Audit praise for council finances

Independent auditors have ruled Inverclyde Council performs well in delivering services, has good financial management arrangements and strong leadership.

Their annual report to Councillors states: "Overall, the Council performs well in delivering services and has good financial management arrangements in place. In particular, the Council has been able to build up significant reserves during a period of financial austerity. This has been achieved

through disciplined financial management, strong leadership by the senior management team in delivering the Council's vision and corporate priorities to focus investment and savings decisions.

Call for employers to pay the living wage



The living wage has been increased for the Council's lowest paid employees.

And Council Leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe has called on other Inverclyde employers to do likewise.

Inverclyde was one of the first councils in Scotland to introduce the Living Wage for employees and was first in the country to increase to the new national rate of £7.85 per hour.

The wage rate, which affects approximately 740 employees across the Council, was backdated to the date of the announcement of the new rate by the Living Wage Foundation – Monday 3 November 2014.

The new rate of £7.85 per hour is an above inflation increase of 2.6% on last year and 21% higher than the

National Minimum Wage.

Inverclyde Council Leader Councillor Stephen McCabe said: "The Living Wage pays a fair rate for low paid workers. The Living Wage goes above the National Minimum Wage and as the largest employer in Inverclyde we can lead the way in making sure that we show our support for our lowest paid workers and for the Living Wage itself."

"I also hope that this sends a message to other employers to adopt the Living Wage for their own employees."

The Living Wage rate is based on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation minimum income standard research, which considers what income is needed to provide an adequate standard of living.



**Got a new business idea?
We'll help get it off the ground.**

Our advice and local workshops can help turn your ideas into a reality.

Starting out in a business can be challenging. So it's good to know that help is available when you need it. Business Gateway provides a range of free advice, local workshops and networking events that can make a real difference to your plans.

So why not find out more?

Call now on **01475 778465**
or visit www.bgateway.com/inverclyde



The Electoral Commission

2015 UK Parliamentary General Election
Key Dates for Voters

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 30 March | Dissolution of Parliament |
| 20 April | Deadline to register to vote |
| 21 April | Deadline for applying for postal vote |
| 28 April | Deadline for applying for proxy vote |
| 7 May | Election day - Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm |
| 8 May | The results announced |

For further information, please contact: 020 7271 0500
To register to vote online visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Follow our tweets for the latest news, events and jobs at: [www.twitter.com/inverclyde](https://twitter.com/inverclyde)



Inverclyde's top ten tips for exam success

- 1 Keep attending classes.** Much valuable information and advice is given out immediately prior to exams. Take advantage of any extra classes on offer. Remember that staff are there to help.
- 2 Draw up a revision timetable.** Avoid spending too much time on subjects you prefer while putting off tackling the ones you do not like or are no good at.
- 3 Work in a quiet, clean, tidy, well ventilated environment conducive to study.** Lounging on your bed surrounded by discarded clothes and leftover pizza is hardly likely to put you in the mood for hard work.
- 4 Choose the time of day that best suits you to study.** 'Early birds' will work better in the mornings while the 'night owls' will do their best work in the evenings.
- 5 Set reasonable targets** - such as two hours' work followed by a 20 minute break.
- 6 Read over course notes** and summarise them using highlighters to make important points eye-catching and memorable.
- 7 Stick up post-it notes** around your room as constant reminders of facts you want to remember. Your mirror is probably the best place.
- 8 Brainstorm with friends** to test each other and get help with problem areas. To remain focused, do this only for a few hours. Remember you're there to work, not to discuss your love life or your CD collection.
- 9 Eat well and healthily.** Reward your efforts with comfort food. Drink plenty of water and get enough sleep – no one functions well when they are tired.
- 10 Be positive.** Never forget why you're putting yourself through all this. The goal might seem far away now but you will get there if you work hard enough.

It's no sweat: How to stay cool during exam fever

It's that time of the year again. Spring is well and truly in the air and thoughts are turning to... exams.

It can be a stressful time for pupils and for families. That's why we've put together top study tips which it hopes will assist pupils through the weeks ahead.

Painting donated to Museum



Two well-known artists have gifted artwork to Greenock's McLean Museum.

Port Glasgow born artist Jimmy Watt donated his painting named 'Greenock' featuring an iconic view of the shipyards in the 1970s.

Jimmy Watt said: "This is a token of thanks to Inverclyde for my artistic career and as a principal art teacher in the area for over 30 years. I thought it would be well-placed in the museum for the people of Inverclyde to take an interest in what used to be there."

The second painting came from an internationally recognised artist, the late William Scott, which was donated by his family as a tribute to the town through the William Scott Foundation.

Inverclyde Council's Education and Communities Vice-Convenor Martin Brennan said: "It is a great pleasure and privilege to be able to add these paintings to Inverclyde's collection, enabling the local museum to bring each artist's work to a new audience."

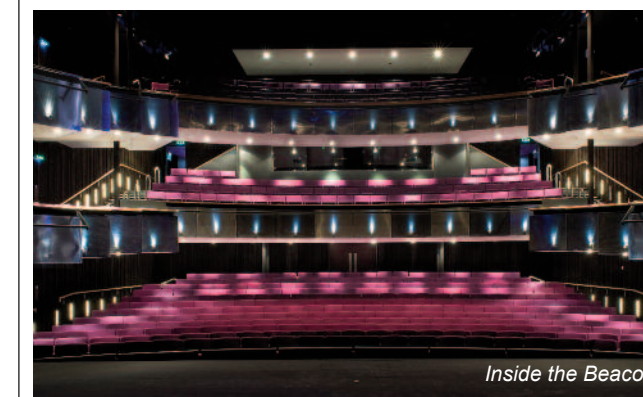
Beacon saved thanks to joint funding package

Inverclyde Council and the Scottish Government joined forces to provide a funding package to save Greenock's Beacon Arts Centre from administration earlier this year.

The Council approved a capital funding package totalling £1.2m and the Scottish Government will put £600,000 into the arts centre which opened its doors in January 2013.

The funding will allow the board - The Greenock Arts Guild - to secure the long-term future of the Beacon including the final settlement sum for construction of project.

In addition to the funding of £1.2m, Inverclyde councillors also decided to support the Beacon with an eight-year revenue fund of £750,000 as its commitment to on-going arts development within the community.



Inverclyde landmark lit up



Newark Castle in Port Glasgow has joined New York's Empire State Building as the latest landmark to be illuminated with state-of-the-art lighting, using LED technology.

Environment and Regeneration Convener Councillor Michael McCormick said: "It has been four or five years since the castle has been illuminated at night and even then it was only in one colour. This new system has been developed to showcase the castle in all its glory and if the technology is good enough for the Empire State building and Edinburgh Castle then it is definitely good enough for Inverclyde."

Newark Castle was built in 1478 and has been added to and altered many times over the centuries. An early visitor to the castle was James IV in 1495 on his way to the Hebrides to quell unrest in the islands.

School investment update... page 5

Watt's Watt celebrates moment of genius

More than 120 school children from across Inverclyde have celebrated the 250th anniversary of a science and engineering discovery that helped to fuel the industrial revolution.

Greenock born, James Watt's light bulb moment of radically improving the fledgling steam engine was the inspiration behind a schools competition held in Inverclyde.

The Watt's Watt challenge held at Port Glasgow Community Campus saw 30 teams from 24 schools tasked with a series of experiments including building a boat and a train to carry apples and making a light from an apple.

The event was organised by Young Engineers and Science Clubs Scotland, a programme run by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry in partnership with the Council, Lloyd's Register Foundation, Tomorrow's Engineers and the McLean Museum.

Jane Martin, Director of Young Engineers and Science Club Scotland said: "The Watt's Watt celebration was a brilliant opportunity to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

The event was a hubbub of excitement and enthusiasm and the pupils showed real ingenuity in meeting the challenges. They were suitably inspired by the famous Inverclyde Alumni!"

Inverclyde Council's Education and Communities Convener, Councillor Terry Loughran, said: "James Watt's influence can still be seen today more than 250 years after his moment of genius. 2015 is the Year of Light and one of the challenges was modelled around creating a 'Watt' of power to light up an apple.

"The pupils clearly enjoyed putting the theory into practice and James Watt continues to be as inspiring today as he was 250 years ago."



Pupils from Inverclyde schools at the Watt's Watt Challenge

Roll out for Quest for learning heritage scheme



Inverclyde Council has welcomed a £305,700 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to roll out an innovative project involving schools and community groups across the area.

The funding follows the success of the pilot involving pupils from Inverclyde Academy researching Inverkip Bay and Victoria Harbour in Greenock. The Dutch Gable Volunteer Group researched Lunderston Bay and the Greenock Esplanade.

The project is closely linked to funding already secured from the Coastal Communities Fund which will see the installation of interpretive panels at 24 key heritage sites across the soon to be launched Inverclyde Coastal Trail.

Environment and Regeneration Convener Councillor Michael McCormick said: "This project will enhance and enrich our reputation by adding value to our already considerable tourism appeal."

California dreaming for Tech Trio



Karen Kelly, Ellie Wilkie, Ellie Stevenson, Councillor Terry Loughran, Claire Higgins and Head Teacher Grant McGovern

Three pupils from an Inverclyde secondary school are set to fly to the United States after scooping a UK award for app innovation.

Ellie Wilkie, Ellie Stevenson and Claire Higgins won the grand prize of a trip to California at the Appathon nationwide competition coordinated by Founders4Schools which is designed to inspire innovation and entrepreneurship in young people.

The trio who attend Notre Dame High School in Greenock travelled to the Palace of Westminster in London

where they learned of their success.

Their 'Smart Wardrobe' app features an on-screen rotating wardrobe that allows users to choose an outfit. The app is aimed at young people who like to plan their outfits carefully before selecting their clothes from their wardrobe, or purchasing them online.

The girls will travel to Silicon Valley in California and will enjoy tours of the Google, LinkedIn, Facebook, PayPal and Square headquarters. They will also be taken on a tour of the Tesla factory.

Local voluntary groups secure Council grants

The Grants to Voluntary Organisations Fund has awarded over £62,000 to arts groups, sports clubs, pre-school groups and community groups across Inverclyde.

Inverclyde Council on Disability was awarded £10,000 for three years to continue developing existing services such as shopmobility, social group, stress management and confidence building.

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland received a three-year funding award for £7,000 to develop an innovative youth voyage project with vulnerable and disadvantaged young people and the Greenock Tobacco Warehouse via the RIG Arts group secures a one-off grant of £2,000 to set up gallery and office space.

Chair of the Grants Sub Committee Councillor James McColgan said: "Voluntary organisations play a vital role in our communities, especially in these difficult economic times."



School investment update

Inverclyde Council's £270 million schools estate programme continues apace.

The £5.9 million refurbishment at Ardgowan Primary in Greenock is making good progress and is due to be completed in May. The project will see a new three storey extension to accommodate changing rooms, staff facilities and other support accommodation. It also includes a new double height assembly hall/ gymnasium extension. The playground will include a new 135 square metre multi-use games area, raised social space, seating and covered canopy structure.

Contractors are also on site at the £2.8 million refurbishment project at St John's Primary in Port Glasgow. The project includes extensions forming a new dining area/activity space and

nursery class facility. A multi-use games area will also be installed, with work scheduled to be completed by August 2015.

In addition, the Council has agreed to build a brand new £7 million state-of-the-art building for St Patrick's Primary in Greenock. It is anticipated work will begin on site in summer 2015 and be completed by October 2016. The school would be decanted to the former Sacred Heart Primary school.

The £3.9 million refurbishment of Kilmacolm Primary has been brought forward and will see staff and pupils move temporarily to the former St Stephen's High School in Autumn 2015. The nursery school will remain on site in temporary modular accommodation. The project is scheduled to be completed by October 2016.



Artists impression of the new St Patrick's Primary School

The return of the Recruit

Inverclyde's flagship personal development programme kicks off for the ninth successive year, with senior pupils from across Inverclyde battling it out to become 'The Recruit'.

The award-winning personal development programme, developed by Inverclyde Council rewards the top candidates with job opportunities. Over the years, 73 young people have secured jobs as a direct result of the programme with many more securing employment as a result of the experience.

The Recruits undertake a variety of challenges and activities from May to August giving almost 500 hours of their own time to the innovative programme – quite an interview process.

It equips them with the essential skills required to develop successful future careers and includes the Entrepreneur Challenge where teams set up their own business and see how much profit they can generate.

The support received from local businesses is second to none, often becoming an important and supporting recruitment.

Over the last eight years The Recruit has raised more than £80,000 for Ardgowan Hospice, with £10,000 donated from the 2014 programme.

If your organisation would like to get involved with The Recruit this year please contact Robert Lamb on **01475 715548** or via email **Robert.lamb@inverclyde.gov.uk**



Pupils take up the challenge

Inverclyde praised for Duke of Edinburgh Award success



Young people presented with awards by Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire

Inverclyde schools have the highest Duke of Edinburgh Award participation rate per head of population in Scotland.

With competition for jobs and further education so high, the award is providing a real alternative for young people, and participation in Inverclyde has gone up by 28% in a year, with more than 295 young people now taking part. In 2013/14, 111 young people achieved bronze, 36 silver and 26 gold awards.

The Council's community learning and development young work team, with the support of Inverclyde schools, provide free evening and weekend

activities so that young people have the opportunity to participate.

It is proposed that more young people with additional support needs be brought into the scheme so that all 14 to 24 year-olds get the opportunity to take part.

Committee Vice Convener Councillor Jim Clocherty said: "Inverclyde has attained an astonishing set of achievements and I am delighted to see the award having a real impact in Inverclyde. We are proud of our inclusive approach which sees young people from all areas of Inverclyde and from a range of backgrounds taking part equally."



Inverclyde Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP)

Provide the community with information about support available for people who are experiencing difficulties because of their own or someone else's alcohol and drug misuse Visit our website at: www.inverclydeadp.org.uk/

InView

Budget special

A budget for savings and investment

The budget for 2015/16 was set and an indicative budget for 2016/17 agreed unanimously.

The revenue budget for next year will deliver over £91m for education, communities and organisational development; nearly £49m for health and social care services and £31m for environment, regeneration and resources.

Councillors have agreed savings totalling £4.1m for the second year with the temporary use of reserves agreed to deliver a total savings package of £7.4m for 2016/17.

Council leader, and proposer of the Council budget, Councillor Stephen McCabe described the budget as one built on delivering based on sound feedback following an extensive consultation exercise.

Councillor McCabe said: "The revenue budget for Inverclyde in the next year is £193m. That's money invested in schools, invested in roads

and lighting, and invested in social work services. It's money invested in services which affect every corner of Inverclyde that touch every community.

"Our school estate programme is still the most ambitious in Scotland and is continuing apace. The refurbishments of Ardgowan and St John's primaries will be completed and work is starting on the refurbishment of Kilmacolm primary with a new build for St Patrick's Primary School.

"Funding has been earmarked for new community facilities in Inverkip, Woodhall and Broomhill and for the refurbishment of Ravensraig Sports Centre. Plans are in place to build two new children's homes in Greenock and Port Glasgow to replace the outdated existing ones.

"We are also continuing to invest in regeneration projects in Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow. Over the next two years we plan to spend a further £16m on improving our roads,

footways and street lighting and tackling the area's flooding problems.

Depute Leader of Inverclyde Council, and seconder of the budget, Councillor Jim Clocherty, said: "The Council conducted an extensive budget consultation over the last few months and the valuable information from that has informed the cross party budget working group.

"The feedback we have received through the innovative online budget simulator, community events, the citizen's panel, focus groups, and our 'your say' budget consultation webpages has helped to shape the difficult decision faced by the members of the budget working group.

"Working closely and with the public behind us means that we can deliver the investment needed for Inverclyde while making sure that our essential services get the maximum level of protection we can."

There will also be additional areas of investment in this year's Council budget.



Council tax levels agreed Inverclyde's Council tax bands for 2015/16 are:



| Band | Range of Values | Amount payable |
|------|--|----------------|
| A | (Disabled) | £665.56 |
| A | Values not exceeding £27,000 | £798.67 |
| B | Values exceeding £27,000 but not exceeding £35,000 | £931.78 |
| C | Values exceeding £35,000 but not exceeding £45,000 | £1,064.89 |
| D | Values exceeding £45,000 but not exceeding £58,000 | £1,198.00 |
| E | Values exceeding £58,000 but not exceeding £80,000 | £1,464.22 |
| F | Values exceeding £80,000 but not exceeding £106,000 | £1,730.44 |
| G | Values exceeding £106,000 but not exceeding £212,000 | £1,996.67 |
| H | Values exceeding £212,000 | £2,396.00 |

Have your say

There were more than 1,400 responses to what's been described as Inverclyde's biggest budget consultation.



For, ahead of the budget setting, the Council embarked on an extensive public consultation, where residents were encouraged to examine the detailed budget proposals and put forward their views on the proposals.

The council used a range of engagement techniques, including a new and innovative online budget simulator. The simulator alone, which set out budget savings proposals and gave people the chance to select their preferred options and 'balance' the budget by selecting up to £7m of savings, generated over 600 responses.

The online budget simulator was set up which was accessible through the Council's website and publicised through a variety of mechanisms,

including a special four page InView Budget Special in December.

It is no surprise that the responses show that respondents are more likely to take more savings from efficiencies and services redesign rather than reducing services.

There was also five public community consultation meetings held across Inverclyde, along with specially arranged briefings for businesses and parents councils, all hosted by the Chief Executive.

A citizens' panel budget questionnaire was also distributed to the one thousand members, with extra copies of the questionnaire made available at the public meetings and in the libraries throughout Inverclyde.

Four focus groups were held; one each for young people and older people and two groups with a cross section of Inverclyde residents.

Residents from every location across Inverclyde responded to the budget consultation and the information provided has helped the councillors make the difficult decisions for the budget setting for 2016/17, which starts in April 2016.

The Council would like to thank you for taking part in Inverclyde's budget challenge.

You can see copies of the consultation documents and budget papers at:

www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay

Budget Consultation Responses

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Online Budget Simulator | 602 |
| Citizen's Panel questionnaire | 631 |
| Focus groups | 36 |
| Other | 200 |

Additional areas of investment



£259,000 extra services to children with additional support needs



£100,000 extra increase to school clothing grant from £80 to £90 per child for the next four years



£300,000 for town and village centre environmental improvements



20% increase in the value of Christmas vouchers for older people from £12.50 to £15



£100,000 extra towards bowling green improvements



£120,000 extra for play areas



Increasing the lowest Council apprentice wage to double the national rate

New central library returns home to Wallace Place

The central library has taken up its new home in the fully refurbished iconic building at Wallace Place in Greenock town centre.

Developed as part of Inverclyde Council's asset management programme, the new 21st century library offers a wide range of services in a flexible, modern and comfortable environment, with knowledgeable and friendly staff on hand to help.

This bright and spacious children's area has lots of comfortable seating and space for families to relax and read in a safe and friendly environment. Families can have lots of fun together in the new 'reading lodge' in the centre of the children's section.

Teenagers continue to have their own section of books to borrow from central library and will be keen to use the special study areas and reading 'cocoons'.

The new library features a flexible learning centre, with 14 desktop

computers within an enhanced space with comfortable PC seating and a mobile smartboard. Adaptable technology is available for people with additional support needs, such as visual or motor impairments. Classes in the new library will include courses in basic computers, tablets, laptops and help with job searching.

Education Convener Councillor Terry Loughran said: "Wallace Place was originally used as a free public library from 1902 until the opening of the central library in Clyde Square in 1965. We are delighted to see the library return to its former home in all its glory refurbished with all the modern technology and design, giving children and adults across Inverclyde a new community hub to be proud of."

More information and online services can be accessed via: www.inverclyde.gov.uk/education-and-learning/libraries



Refurbished central library at Wallace Place

Win for Whinhill

Inverclyde Council's Schools Upgrade Programme is progressing as new multi-use games area has been opened at Whinhill Primary.

The state-of-the-art facility allows pupils to play a variety of sports during school including netball, short tennis, football and basketball.

Inverclyde Council is now installing a similar multi-use games area at St Ninian's Primary School which is due to be complete in May 2015 and Kilmacolm Primary's upgrade will follow shortly as part of the school's refurbishment.

£1.1m has been allocated to upgrade the sports facilities in seven other schools with work commencing on site from March/April 2015 at Inverkip, St Francis, St Michael's, St Mary's, King's Oak, Lady Alice and St Joseph's Primary Schools.



All aboard for record-breaking cruise ship season



Cruise ship at Ocean Terminal

2015 is expected to be the busiest year yet at Greenock Ocean Terminal, with a total of 56 ships expected to call this season - seven more than last year.

Year on year, passenger numbers have more than quadrupled, from 20,253 in 2007 to 92,678 in 2014 and this year is set to break the 100,000 barrier for the first time ever.

This increase is set to bring a multi-million pound boost to Inverclyde's economy - estimates suggest that each passenger contributes around £80 to the local economy, not to mention from thousands of crew members who also spend here.

This year will see the first direct sailings from Greenock to the Caribbean and the Queen Mary II will call as part of Cunard's 175th year anniversary celebrations, reinforcing the Clyde and the terminal's close historical links with the cruise operator. The Royal Princess and Regal Princess will also grace the port with their presence.

The terminal works in partnership with Inverclyde Tourist Group, who welcome passengers as they arrive and offering a source of vital information for tourists.

Full steam ahead for regeneration projects



Gamble Halls, Gourrock

Inverclyde Council's Environment and Regeneration Committee has approved over £800,000 on new projects as part of its capital investment programme.

This increase £175,000 to replace and repair rotten windows in Gourrock's Gamble Halls, £200,000 to rewire Port Glasgow Town Hall and a further £100,000 towards the Gourrock Pier and Railhead Development.

Convener Councillor Michael McCormick said: "I am delighted that we are also investing £130,000 in a new ventilation system and access ramp at Gourrock's iconic outdoor swimming pool. The Council has already invested £1.8 million in the pool and this additional investment will further enhance one of Inverclyde's top attractions for local people and visitors. We are fortunate in these days of increasingly constrained budgets to be able to carry on our programme of investment to enhance our facilities and enrich the lives of our citizens."

You can do it!

Foster or adopt for inverclyde

Inverclyde Social Work Services are seeking people who can care for children and young people, making a difference to their lives

Call now for an information pack
01475 715367
Email: fosteringandadoption@inverclyde.gov.uk
Visit: www.inverclyde.gov.uk

NHS
Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Inverclyde
council

Make this the year you stop smoking for good

Visit our sessions e-cig users - support provided

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Craigend Resource Centre | Monday | 1 - 2pm |
| Boglestone Clinic | Tuesday | 10 - 11am |
| Greenock Health Centre | Tuesday | 7 - 8pm |
| Greenock Health Centre | Wednesday | 5 - 6pm |
| Gourock Health Centre | Thursday | 10 - 11am |
| Boglestone Community Centre | Thursday | 5 - 6pm |

For advice on other services call **01475 501226**
or email smokefree.inverclyde@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

NHS
Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Inverclyde
council

Park life in full swing across Inverclyde

Park life is a whole lot more fun for children across Inverclyde, thanks to Council investment of more than £2m over the past five years.

Larkfield in Greenock now boasts an exciting new £175,000 play park with top quality facilities and local youngsters can also enjoy a new £69,000 play area at Wellpark in Greenock, which was opened recently.

More than £200,000 was allocated for the refurbishment of Birkmyre in Port Glasgow, which include a new play area. Upgrading work is also planned for Battery Park in Greenock, which will include the installations of some units suitable for children in wheelchairs and the existing play area at Ashton Promenade in Gourrock is to be expanded. Other projects include two

fully equipped play parks for Barrs Brae in Port Glasgow and Braeside in Greenock at a cost of £69,000 each.

Environment and Regeneration Convener Councillor Michael McCormick said: "When we set up our investment programme our priority was to bring sites that were in a poor condition up to scratch. That has now been achieved and we are now turning our attention to filling in the gaps in provision. We recognise how important it is for children to have attractive and safe areas in which to play and I am delighted we have been able to approve this significant investment.

"It's great to see children of all ages enjoying these play areas. I would encourage everyone to come along and join in the fun."



Ramping up road repairs

A £5 million programme of road, footway, structures and lighting improvements in Inverclyde is on track to be completed this financial year.

Inverclyde Council's roads team has completed 27 of the 28 planned roads projects for this financial year, as part of the ongoing roads and maintenance plan, known as the Roads Asset Management Strategy. In addition, eight reserve projects are complete, with a further 5 projects, including Glen Avenue and Clynder Road, on course to be completed by the end of March. In addition, 36 roads have also had the application of a protective treatment to enhance their lifespan.

12 footway resurfacing projects are complete, with a further 2 due to be completed by the end of March. Two projects have been postponed due to planned utility works. Additional projects at Broadstone Avenue, Duchal Street and B788



Kilmacolm Road will also be completed by the end of March.

Inverclyde's Environment and Regeneration Convener, Councillor Michael McCormick, said: "The roads team have pulled out all the stops to get these repairs and road resurfacing improvements completed. The approved programme and additional funding aimed to tackle the long standing issues of roads maintenance and it is clear that Inverclyde is making great progress."

Inverclyde secures £1m regeneration funds

Two Inverclyde projects have been successful in securing national regeneration funds totalling over £1m.

A new Horticultural Training and Community Facility has received an indicative award of £397,308 and the Riverside Inverclyde project to deliver an enterprise workspace at the Custom House building is set to receive £649,332.

The Horticultural Training and Community Facility aims to develop a community and training centre in the Broomhill area of Greenock, to provide facilities and activities to promote and enhance wider regeneration and community cohesion. The facility is expected to create seven new jobs, support six existing jobs and house Inverclyde Association for Mental Health.



Inverclyde's Environment and Regeneration Convener, Councillor Michael McCormick, said: "This is welcome news - the delivery of these projects will help to deliver physical regeneration, create jobs and secure existing jobs in the area."

Support for SMEs

Our business development team within economic development, assists companies in Inverclyde to grow, develop and succeed through programmes providing specialist business advice and funding support.

The Inverclyde Employer Plus Partnership comprises of a range of public and third sector agencies working together to provide support to local businesses to access a wide range of services, including recruitment support (including candidate screening and work trials), staff training and upskilling.

The team will assist and support individual businesses and local community regeneration with advice and funding initiatives through the following:

- Business Informal Training Support
- Graduate Program
- Investment Fund
- Marketing Grant
- New Start Growth Fund
- Property Assistance Scheme
- Regional Selective Assistance
- Small Business Assistance Grant
- Small Business Loan Scheme
- Tourism Grants
- West of Scotland Loan Fund Ltd
- Young Company Development Fund

For further information visit www.inverclyde.gov.uk/business-and-trade/business-development/ or email us at eds.enquiries@inverclyde.gov.uk or call us on **01475 715555**

Colourful Campaign to Promote Children’s Right to be Safe

“We Care, We Listen, We Act”

The winners of an Inverclyde-wide poster competition for a new children’s campaign have been revealed as **Chloe McMillan**, an S3 pupil from **Craigmarloch School** and **Adrian Gerrard** and **Lauren McIver**, P6 pupils from **All Saints Primary**, who worked together on their design.

“We Care, We Listen, We Act!”

Inverclyde Child Protection Committee’s public awareness campaign for 2015 will promote children and young people’s rights to be safe and protected from harm, while supporting and encouraging children and young people to play an active part in looking out for their friends.

Community Health and Care Partnership Chair Councillor Joe McIlwee said: “We received entries from

primary, secondary and additional support needs schools across the area. It was a tough job picking the winners but I am sure the designs we have chosen will get the campaign message across in a colourful and engaging way.”

The winning pupils have worked with Inverclyde Council’s graphic design team to create a poster based on their design. The campaign, launched this month, will see posters appearing in every school and on selected billboards around Inverclyde.

The campaign complements ongoing activity such as the Nurturing Inverclyde approach, Rights Respecting Schools Awards and the Childline programme delivered in primary schools.



Pupils and their winning designs

Glass collection a smashing success

In the first month of Inverclyde Council’s new kerbside glass recycling service, more than **79 tonnes of glass** has been diverted from landfill.

The roll-out of a new service took place in early December and saw nearly 28,000 households in Inverclyde receive a 40 litre black box for the storage and recycling of glass.

The new fortnightly collection service complements the existing kerbside collection services and allows householders to recycle clear and coloured glass bottles and jars including sauce bottles, wine bottles, spirits bottles, baby food jars, beer bottles and medicine bottles.

Environment and Regeneration Convener Councillor Michael McCormick, said: “I am pleased we have been able to respond to requests from the public by introducing this new service. The kerbside collection of glass is so convenient and will help reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill. It has been well-received and I am delighted that people are recycling more of their household waste than ever before.”

Glass is stored and bulked in Inverclyde then transferred to the reprocessor where it is crushed, cleaned and sorted then melted and



Councillor Michael McCormick at the glass recycling depot

moulded into new glass bottles and jars.

Inverclyde is one of only nine local authorities to meet the Scottish Government’s 2013 performance target of 50% household recycling and in the second quarter of 2014 we achieved the new 60% recycling target for 2020.

For more information on recycling in Inverclyde visit: www.inverclyde.gov.uk/recycling or call the recycling Helpline on: **01475 715901**

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

Come along to Port Glasgow’s Town Hall on **Saturday 21 March** to celebrate the start of spring as Inverclyde’s green-fingered residents compete in the annual Bulb Show. Doors open at **12noon** and entry is **free**.

For further information call **01475 712032** or visit www.inverclyde.gov.uk/events

Brown bin collections are recommencing

Please present your brown bin beside your blue bin by 7am on your regular collection day during week commencing:

23 March or 30 March

Recycling Helpline **01475 715901**

www.inverclyde.gov.uk

Your Councillors

Ward 1, Inverclyde East

Jim MacLeod

Stephen McCabe

James McColgan

David Wilson

Ward 2, Inverclyde East Central

Jim Grieve

Michael McCormick

Robert Moran

Ward 3, Inverclyde North

Martin Brennan

Math Campbell-Sturgess

Jim Clocherty

Kenny Shepherd

Ward 4, Inverclyde South

Keith Brooks

Vaughan Jones

Joseph McIlwee

Ward 5, Inverclyde West

Ronnie Ahlfeld

Terry Loughran

Chris McEleny

Ward 6, Inverclyde South West

Gerry Dorrian

Innes Nelson

Ciano Rebecchi

Colour codes to political parties

Conservative

Independent

Labour

Liberal Democrat

SNP

If you have a comment to make about any Council service or you have concerns about your neighbourhood you can contact your Councillor during office hours on:

(01475) 712727 / 712020

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

Inverclyde is a Fair Trade Zone

Let us know what you think of InView by emailing us at corporate.communications@inverclyde.gov.uk

Scottish Highland Games season starts in Inverclyde

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Gourock
Highland
Games

Sunday 10 May 2015

noon – 5pm

Gourock Park, Inverclyde PA19 1YT

Gourock kicks off the Scottish Highland Games Season with
pipe bands, Highland dancers, heavy competitors,
a range of Scottish food & drink and much more!

For more information visit

www.gourockhighlandgames.org.uk or call 01475 712032



Scotland
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