

 **Inverclyde Winter Festival**  
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**OVER THE MOON**  
Inverclyde pupils join NASA  
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**SKATEPARK REVEALED**  
New facility at Battery Park  
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**GLASS WASTE SCHEME**  
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**Have your say:**  
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# £5.2m Gourock investment begins



**The 'once in a lifetime' regeneration of Gourock town centre has now begun.**

The Council and its delivery agent, Riverside Inverclyde have agreed contracts with contractor RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd on the £5.2million project.

The project includes a new one-way system in Kempock Street, increased car parking provision, a new public space along the waterfront, a facility for small craft to access the beach at the pierhead and a redesign of public spaces at each end of Kempock Street. The footpaths on Kempock Street will also be renewed.

The regeneration of Gourock's waterfront was welcomed by the Council's Environment and Regeneration Convener, Councillor Michael McCormick, pictured right with Council Leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe.



**GOUROCK START:** Announcement by Cllr McCormick (left) and Leader Cllr McCabe.

Councillor McCormick said on the day the contract was agreed: "This is an historic day for Inverclyde and for the people of Gourock. It has been a lengthy process to bring all of the necessary licenses, permissions and land transfers together but we are finally in a position to begin."

"This project is a key priority for the Council and an opportunity to enhance and regenerate one of the jewels in the crown of Inverclyde. It will benefit Gourock in many ways by improving the town centre; enhancing available parking for residents and visitors and will give Gourock a modern feel while maintaining the historic nature of the town."

The project is being delivered by regeneration company Riverside Inverclyde.

Bruce G Clark, Joint Managing Director of RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd said: "As one of Scotland's leading civil engineering contractors, we are delighted to be working with Riverside Inverclyde in delivering the Gourock public realm project."

"With extensive experience in urban regeneration in the west of Scotland, we recognise that harmonious relationships with local stakeholders are imperative to the success of such projects."

A £600,000 project to repair and renew the sea wall adjacent to Kempock Street will be carried out and incorporated within the main contract.

Residents and local businesses will be informed in advance of the works taking place in Gourock.

## New HQ for CHCP opens



Named Hector McNeil House after the 1950's Greenock MP and Secretary of State, the former Central Library at Clyde Square has undergone an extensive £4million conversion and redevelopment programme.

It now creates a custom-designed office for more than 220 Community Health Care Partnership (CHCP) staff.

The new premises is part of an overall service modernisation plan, including upgraded IT facilities, designed to offer service improvements and efficiency savings.

Services operating from Hector McNeil House include:

- Children and families social work services, adoption, fostering and kinship care services,
- Criminal justice services,
- Welfare rights and advice services,
- Health and community care,
- Management team, business support,
- Planning/health improvement/ commissioning teams and
- Finance.

**Contact the CHCP on 01475 715365.**

## £1bn deal signed

A £1.13bn City Deal agreement has been signed by West of Scotland council leaders and both governments which will bring extra investment to Inverclyde. Projects include Greenock Ocean Terminal (£14.2m); Inchgreen (£9.4m) and Inverkip (£3.8m).

# Welcome

## Welcome to the latest edition of InView

*Council Leader  
Councillor Stephen McCabe*



**The summer seems a dim-and-distant memory as our focus shifts to the winter months ahead and beyond.**

For the Council we are approaching a critical time as we turn our attention to the increasingly difficult and arduous task of setting our budget for the years ahead.

As Council Leader, I have always made a point of being honest and up-front about the financial challenges we face. In a climate of diminishing funding from the Scottish Government, those challenges become tougher and the decisions we have to make all the more difficult.

The simple fact is essential services must come first and we have to cut our cloth elsewhere to deliver them.

The Council is facing a £7 million budget gap for the year 2016/17.

To close that gap a 'long list' of proposals has been drawn up by officers setting out savings options totalling £10 million and we want you, our residents, to tell us what your preferred choices are.

You will see from the dedicated budget pages in this issue just how difficult a task it is, but your views will help to inform the Council's final decisions when they are made.

I would ask you to take this opportunity to study them well and take part in probably one of the most significant public consultations the Council has carried out in many years. The decisions we will be forced to take will almost certainly impact on our communities and it is vital we make decisions with all of the information we need.

Another recent decision - but one that we were forced to take - was to bring in parking regulation.

We could not allow the unrestricted free-for-all that developed to continue

after the police withdrew their warden service. It was causing problems and safety risks for businesses, shoppers, residents and disabled people, none of which are good for Inverclyde.

The restrictions came into force at the start of October but it was clear within a few weeks they needed to be amended. We have started that process - to increase on-street parking in Greenock to two hours; remove a few streets from the parking disc zones and to apply the restrictions from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday - and we will review the arrangements in the rest of Inverclyde in the New Year.

It is important to remember the vast majority of parking rules are the same as they were last year and indeed are the same as they were when the police had responsibility.

It is up to motorists to park considerately and within the rules for the benefit of us all.

Finally I would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the campaign to save Ferguson's shipyard in Port Glasgow after the shocking news it was going into administration.

It was a perfect example of how by working together a viable and highly skilled business could attract investment and act as a beacon for further investment in Inverclyde.

The Council is committed to delivering its programme of regeneration and investment despite the financial challenges we continue to face.

Despite those pressures we continue to meet our high standards and make a real difference to the lives of people in Inverclyde.

All that remains is for me to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2015.

## Business development advice and funding support available

**Inverclyde's business development team based at the Business Store in Greenock, can assist companies in Inverclyde to grow, develop and succeed.**

Their aim is to build trusted relationships and stimulate opportunities for businesses to prosper.

Through development programmes providing specialist business advice and funding support, the business development team aims to contribute to the regeneration of the area by assisting with the growth and development of businesses.

Through the efforts of an experienced and multi-disciplined team of business advisors they will assist individual businesses to grow and prosper and support business and local community regeneration with advice and funding initiatives through the following:

- Business Informal Training Support
- 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](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/business-and-trade/business-development) or email [eds.enquiries@inverclyde.gov.uk](mailto:eds.enquiries@inverclyde.gov.uk) or call 01475 715555

## Search for and apply for public sector jobs online

**My job Scotland includes Inverclyde Council jobs and you can search and apply online. By registering you can also sign up to get alerts for the type of job you're looking for.**

**The mobile and android apps for my job Scotland mean you can search and apply for jobs on the go.**



[www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/Inverclyde](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/Inverclyde)



**Latest news on services, events and jobs in Inverclyde are posted on our website and twitter as soon as they are available.**

For more information visit

[www.inverclyde.gov.uk](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk)

[www.twitter.com/inverclyde](https://www.twitter.com/inverclyde)

[www.inverclydeleisure.com](http://www.inverclydeleisure.com)



**Inverclyde**  
council

**During the summer, The Queen's Baton made its journey across Inverclyde joined by crowds, runners, councillors, celebrities... and Clyde.**



# School projects press ahead



Work ongoing at Ardgowan Primary

**Inverclyde Council's schools estate investment continues with a number of key projects taking significant steps forward.**

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 Oct 16.

Contractors are due to start work on the £2.8 million refurbishment of St

John's Primary school in Port Glasgow and the new £7 million St Patrick's Primary in Greenock is on schedule for work to start in the summer of 2015.

The £5.5 million refurbishment of Ardgowan Primary in Greenock is making good progress with work scheduled to be completed after the Easter 2015 holiday.

Education & Communities Convener Councillor Terry Loughran said: "Our £210 million programme is the envy of councils around the UK and I am delighted more pupils are set to benefit soon from high quality schools."

## Engineering our future

**More than 15 Inverclyde primary and secondary schools are actively involved in Young Engineer Clubs, with more due to be established this year.**

Supported by SCDI (Scottish Council for Development and Industry), these clubs offer a fantastic source of inspiration, excitement and resources for Inverclyde's young people, enabling them to develop topical, hands-on and engaging STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) projects, as well as sparking future career aspirations.

Over the years, Inverclyde schools have been involved in a variety of projects, ranging from building heathers hut weather stations, designing and building a solar powered eco ferry to learning about the latest programming technology raspberry pi.

Most recently, Port Glasgow High School and St Stephen's High School put a joint campus entry into the Greenpower Race Challenge. This involved building their very own battery powered race car, finding the fastest drivers and training up the rest of the team as the 'pit crew'.



## Competition hots up in Inverclyde

**Inverclyde Council's six secondary schools are taking part in a two-year pilot to give pupils the chance to compete regularly in sports.**

The **sportscotland** project has been designed to give young people in S1 and S2 structured competition in netball; girls' football; basketball; golf; athletics; rugby and football and is linked to local sports clubs in the area.

Education & Communities Convener Councillor Terry Loughran said: "There

is no doubt that sport is for all but it is by its very nature competitive. We provide first class sporting facilities in our brand new and refurbished schools so it is only logical that we help pupils who want to take part in competitions. This is a great opportunity in partnership with **sportscotland** and I know from speaking to young people taking part they are enjoying themselves and benefitting from health and social advantages."

## Star pupils visit NASA



*Inverclyde pupils: Mairi Shaw, Notre Dame High School, Emma Thomson, Inverclyde Academy, Joe Gibson, St Columba's High School and Sophia White, Clydevie Academy with the other pupils on the programme.*

**Four Inverclyde school pupils have safely landed back home after the trip of a lifetime to NASA's Johnson Space Centre at Houston in the USA.**

The S5 pupils saw off competition from hundreds of young people from every region of Scotland to be selected for the dream trip and were among the top 10 candidates chosen from the University of Strathclyde's ever-popular space school programme.

Gordon McVie from the Scottish Space School at Strathclyde University

said: "It is unprecedented to have four pupils from the one council area, indeed four different schools, in the top ten at the Space School which has been running for ten years and welcomed 1,100 pupils."

During the trip the pupils visited two Mission Control Centres, the current International Space Station centre and the historic Apollo Mission Control that landed men on the moon. Apollo Mission Director Gene Kranz met the pupils and signed copies of his book.



# Skatepark plans are revealed

**Inverclyde's newest leisure facility has been unveiled with plans for the new skatepark at Battery Park in Greenock going through the formal planning process.**

Inverclyde's Environment and Regeneration Convener, Councillor Michael McCormick said: "This is an exciting new development and I am sure one that skateboarders will be looking forward to using. The existing one has been well used but it is clear from the plans that we will be moving to a whole new level. I would like to thank the Inverclyde Skatepark Group for their valuable input to making sure that the new skatepark is an investment we can all be proud of."

The new skatepark replaces the existing facilities and will boast new

features including ramps, kickers, quarter pipes, steps, rails, banks, raised tables and kerbs.

Inverclyde Council took on specialist skatepark designers Wheelscape to come up with the plans.

Designer Russ Heideman of Wheelscape said: "Battery Park has been a really exciting project. From the initial tender stage we have seen the project through to this point in conjunction with the Council and with valued input from the Inverclyde Skatepark Group.

"Everyone has been a pleasure to work with and we look forward to getting the new park in the ground."

The new skatepark has three clear sections; the 'transition' section, a fully enclosed bowl with pockets, hips and



*Artists impressions of the new skatepark*

transfers as well as a waterfall down to a deeper section. The 'plaza' section, low level flat concrete for flat-ground manoeuvres with a unique grind ledge/manual pad and a flat bank hip.

Also a 'street' section, a level change with real street features such as the five set of stairs with handrail and the kerbstone topped jersey barrier style extension.

## Local development promoting growth

**Inverclyde Council has just adopted and published its first new style local development plan, following a five-year formal process.**

The plan sets out where and how future development will take place over the next decade and beyond, as well as providing the framework for future planning applications.

It has been developed to help Inverclyde grow and diversify its local economy, attract new people and, through continuous improvements to the quality of design in the built environment, ensure that our towns and villages complement our unique setting on the Clyde Coast.

It sits within a national, regional and local context - Scottish Government planning policy, the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley strategic development plan, and the Inverclyde Alliance single outcome agreement. The full plan is available on the council website.

If you know someone interested in relocating to Inverclyde, email our relocation officer at:

[living@inverclyde.gov.uk](mailto:living@inverclyde.gov.uk)  
or visit our website at  
[www.inverclyde-living.org](http://www.inverclyde-living.org)

## You're hired...

**Record number of young people secure jobs through 'The Recruit'.**

Twenty-nine young people from S5/6 years in Inverclyde's secondary schools devoted their summer holidays to participate in Inverclyde Council's award-winning personal development programme 'The Recruit'.

This year an all-time recruit record was smashed as 16 young people - that's more than half of the programme's candidates - were offered jobs from local organisations and businesses.

Matthew Wishart was announced the top recruit and received the winning position with leading business services company, Concentrix.

Education and Communities Convenor, Councillor Terry Loughran said: "The success of the programme grows every year as the enterprise development team continue to nurture strong partnerships with local and national businesses. The Council is extremely grateful for all their support from the organisations involved in this very unique programme."



**The Council has served demolition orders on all properties in the regeneration area as part of its £2.6 million strategy to address very poor social and housing conditions.**

The area has been blighted by anti-social and criminal behaviour and abandoned properties. The level of empty homes has increased over the last decade to almost 75% from circa 50% in 2006. Demolition is the only economically viable option to deal with these problems and the majority of resident owners support this approach.



Inverclyde Advice First provides money, debt and benefit advice for the people of Inverclyde. For free, confidential, impartial and expert advice, please call

**01475 715299**

# Inverclyde's 'long list' of budget savings

Inverclyde Council's Chief Executive, John Mundell, highlights the budget savings options being put forward for the 2016/17 budget round and how you can have your say.

**In recent years, especially since the credit crunch and financial crash, public services across the country have been under enormous budget pressure.**

In Inverclyde we have successfully weathered the storm through well planned and careful budgeting. During the past few years we have managed to drive out over £22m annually recurring efficiencies in our budget with over £4m ploughed back into improving

our school estate.

Our budget for next year (2015/16) was set in principle and if agreed in February will see savings of around £950,000 in the budget. The following year requires savings of more substance, as we are facing a budget gap in the 2016/17 of £7m to deliver an estimated balanced budget of £196m.

To meet this level of savings, which we must do, we have prepared a savings options package of £10m.

We are asking you to make your preferred choices for the Council's budget savings and reduce the £10m 'long list' down to £7m.

By getting involved in the budget consultation and using the innovative online budget simulator we hope you will see that we have put together achievable budget savings which help to offer some protection to statutory services for Inverclyde.

No budget saving is easy, but we

hope this will show you some of the difficult decisions being faced by the Council in the financial year which begins on 1 April 2016.

*John Mundell  
Chief  
Executive  
Inverclyde  
Council*



## The savings package options

The savings proposals put forward by each Directorate of the Council show options totalling approximately 6% equally of their respective budgets.

Education,  
Communities  
and Organisational  
Development

£5.203m

Community Health  
and Care  
Partnership (CHCP)

£2.853m

Environment,  
Regeneration  
and Resources

£1.944m

The saving options are being proposed across five areas:

- efficiency
- delivery models
- service redesign
- income and charges
- reduced service provision

## Meet the Inverclyde budget gap challenge with online app

**You can have your say and help set the Council's budget savings and help meet the budget gap for 2016/17 of £7m.**

The Council will have an estimated budget of £196m by 2016/17.

Using the online budget simulator puts the Council's budget savings in your hands.

We have set out £10m of budget savings proposals.

With the online budget simulator, you can decide on what should be saved to meet that £7m and which of the £10m proposals should be protected.

The online budget simulator is at:  
[www.inverclyde.budgetsimulator.com](http://www.inverclyde.budgetsimulator.com)  
or you can access it from the council website alongside all budget documents at  
[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)

Plug the gap and get your budget simulator to £3m or below to show what you think should be saved and what you think should be protected.



**Your Council  
Your Say**

[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)  
[www.inverclyde.budgetsimulator.com](http://www.inverclyde.budgetsimulator.com)

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# Our budget savings options

The Council has put forward savings options worth £10m to help plug a budget gap of £7m in 2016/17 to deliver a balanced budget estimated at £196m.

On the next two pages you will find brief summaries of the savings options. For the complete list of savings options, visit [www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay).

No decision has been made on these options and the Council is consulting locally to make sure as many residents as possible get the chance to have their say.

The budget options are listed in more detail on the budget proposals document which is available to download at [www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)

## Our options

### Education, Communities and Organisational Development

#### Income and charging:

Charging all users for pitch hire without impacting on the charging policy; charging for advertising and sponsorship and increased service level agreements for HR and payroll services.

**Saving - £170,000**

#### Efficiency:

A review of working time arrangements for non-teaching staff in schools and a review of the administrative and clerical support in organisational development and human resources.

**Saving - £108,000.**

Reducing budgets across a range of budget lines and business processes: corporate policy, school catering, events, and deleting currently vacant posts.

**Saving - £990,000**

#### Service redesign:

Management restructure within the headquarters support for education services and shared headships for primary schools.

**Saving - £292,000**

Reviewing the support provided within mainstream schools, it is expected that a more effective service can be provided. A full service redesign is required to achieve this saving and it is expected to be achievable by 1 April 2016. In addition, a review of how non-class contact time for teachers in primary schools is delivered will provide a large part of the saving which will require to be implemented in August 2015. In addition, reviews of youth club provision, community support, libraries and the school estates management plan (SEMP) capital model will also be completed.

**Saving - £2.046m**

#### Reduced service provision:

This saving options directly impacts on service provision either by reducing or stopping a service.

Key areas impacted include: a review of the school transport policy, reducing school budgets, adjusting school staffing formula; stopping P6 swimming lessons, fruit for schools, some school initiatives, areas of music provision including stopping Saturday music centre, review of community safety services, review of community learning and development and community hubs provision, removing free swimming, review speech and language contract, reduce events management budget and reduce SEMP maintenance allowance.

**Saving - £1.515m**

#### Delivery models:

This saving will deliver a review of funding arrangement for additional support needs, non teacher cover budget and a review of specialist language services.

**Saving - £82,000**



[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)  
[www.inverclyde.budgetsimulator.com](http://www.inverclyde.budgetsimulator.com)

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# Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP)

## Efficiency:

Rationalise administration and clerical support across all services within the community health and care partnership.

**Saving - £185,000**

Increased efficiencies by deleting currently vacant posts, reducing hours and operating teams in a more efficient way.

**Saving - £316,000**

## Service redesign:

Review a number of externally funded projects and commissioned services across the CHCP, incorporating a wide range of providers including third sector and voluntary organisations.

**Saving - £692,000**

Review service management capacity within the community health and care partnership.

**Saving - £16,000**



Review functions and services currently provided to establish closer working with the voluntary sector including support and respite services.

**Saving - £72,000**

## Reduced service provision:

Reviewing support roles across a number of service areas and non staffing savings including respite provision and a reduction in externally provided projects and services. Removal of a number of social worker and social care posts across service areas.

**Saving - £1.504m**

## Delivery models:

Service transfer from in-house provision to an external provider.

**Saving - £68,000**



# Environment, Regeneration and Resources

## Income and charging:

Increase income and charging by maximising Council tax collection levels, increasing housing benefit subsidy, increase charges within environmental services - eg burials and cremations, charging partners for services provided and revise Council's policy on Council tax liability for long term empty properties.

**Saving - £520,000**

## Efficiency:

Review of the clerical and administrative support of the legal and finance services to deliver support in a more efficient manner.

**Saving - £89,000**

Review of the existing contracts and renegotiating better rates, extending replacement cycles of ICT equipment and reducing energy costs due to use of LED lamps for street lighting.

**Saving - £165,000**



Further review of the office and depot asset plans and continued lower borrowing rates would realise savings from the funding models with no impact to service delivery.

**Saving - £225,000**

## Service redesign:

Restructures within internal audit, property assets, procurement and business development plus a larger restructure of management, supervisors and technical support within environmental and commercial services following recent changes to remit of service and planned office consolidation.

**Saving - £325,000**

## Reduced service provision:

Reduce the physical regeneration fund from £500,000 to £250,000 from 2016.

**Saving - £250,000**



Close Kirn Drive civic amenity site following the £1.7m investment in a modern new recycling facility at Pottery Street. Reduce maintenance regimes in street cleansing and grounds maintenance. Close Whinhill Golf Course and two of the seven public conveniences.

**Saving - £370,000**



[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)  
[www.inverclyde.budgetsimulator.com](http://www.inverclyde.budgetsimulator.com)

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# Where the money comes from and where it goes

The Scottish Government is allocated money from Westminster and this is called the 'Scottish Block'. The Scottish Government then decides how this money will be allocated based on the spending priorities for the country.

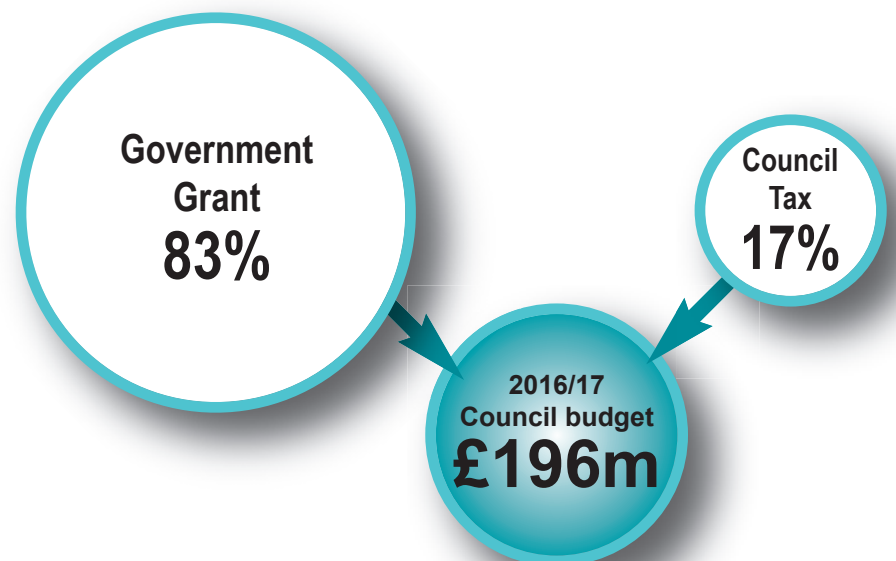
Scottish Councils receive money from the Scottish Government each year to run local services; this is called the 'Grant Settlement'.

Around 83% of Inverclyde's budget comes from the grant settlement from the Scottish Government which makes this one of the most important factors in deciding how much money the Council has to spend on delivering local services.

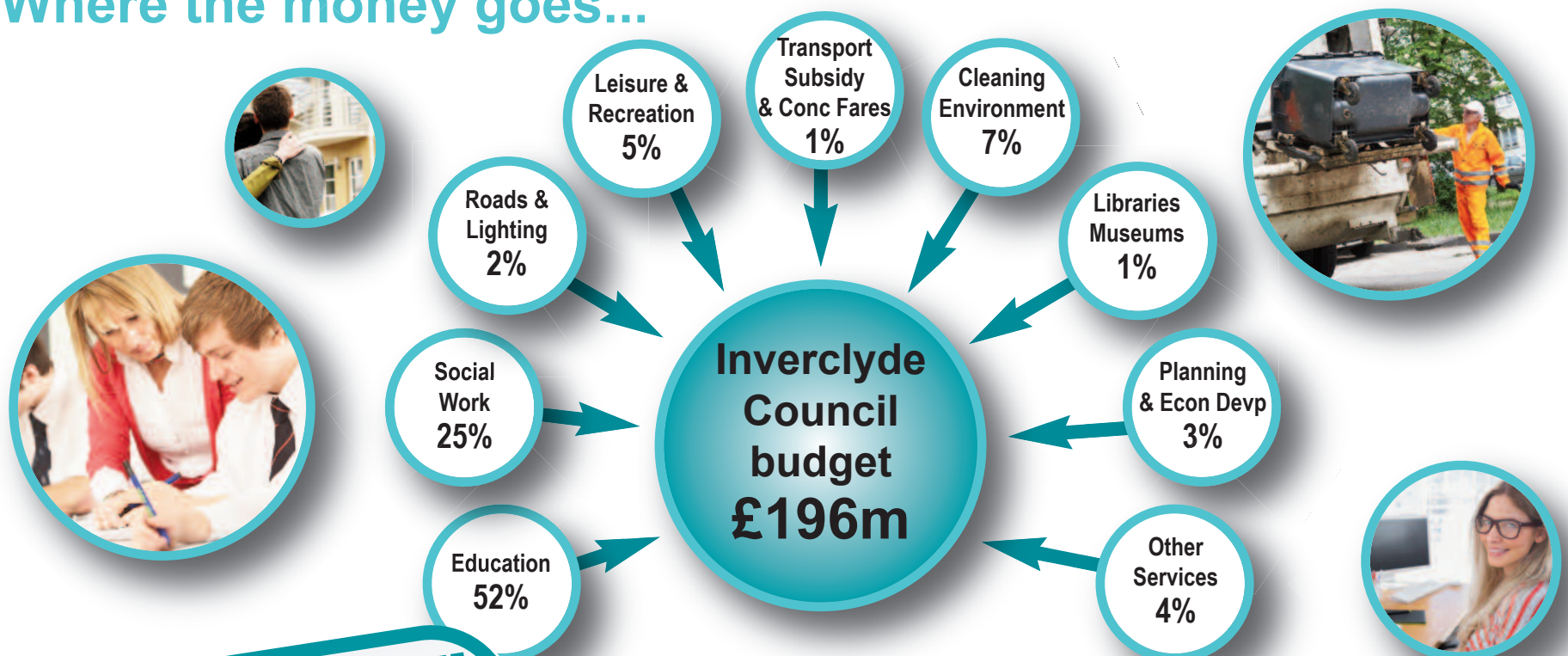
Council tax also adds to the spending pot for Inverclyde Council. This amounts to around 17% of the Council's total income.

The council tax has been frozen for the past seven years.

## Where it comes from...



## Where the money goes...



% based on 2014/15 budget



[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)  
[www.inverclyde.budgetsimulator.com](http://www.inverclyde.budgetsimulator.com)

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# Parking scheme to be amended

**New parking changes introduced in Greenock are to be amended to ensure they continue to support local businesses and residents.**

Long-term, after a formal consultation, the aim is to make these changes:

- Under the new plans, changes to the parking scheme include: reducing the parking restrictions period to Monday to Friday (8am to 6pm) for both on and off street parking.
- Terrace Road, West Stewart Street (from Jamaica Street to Kelly Street) Jamaica Street (from West Stewart Street and Union Street); Station Avenue and unnamed streets serving 51-57 Cathcart Buildings and 59-67 Cathcart Buildings. These will be removed from the parking disc operation area and changed to on-street unrestricted parking areas.
- On-street parking using the parking disc in Greenock town centre will be increased from 30 minutes to two hours.

While that is being formally consulted on, these short-term changes will be put in place:

- The Council has informally suspended enforcement of the parking restrictions on the Terrace Road, West Stewart Street (from Jamaica Street to Kelly Street) Jamaica Street (from West Stewart Street and Union Street); Station Avenue and unnamed streets serving 51-57 Cathcart Buildings and 59-67 Cathcart Buildings. These will be removed from the parking disc operation area and changed to on-street unrestricted parking areas.
- Council car parks in Greenock town centre – including £1-a-day car parks will be unrestricted on the four Saturdays in December 2014.



To check on the latest position

[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/parking](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/parking)

- Up to 30 mins max stay free (Display parking disc)
- Up to 1 hour max stay free (Display parking disc)
- Up to 2 hours max stay free (Display parking disc)
- Up to 3 hours max stay free (Display parking disc)
- Unlimited stays Saturdays in December
- Flat rate £1 per day
- Free Saturdays in December
- No waiting or parking
- Inner Town Centre



## New coastal trail is coming soon



**Inverclyde Council and partners are currently developing a new coastal trail which will be launching in spring 2015.**

The trail will run from Finlaystone to Wemyss Bay, a distance of just over 20 miles and will include some landmark and heritage sites, including Newark Castle, The Custom House, Cloch Lighthouse and the iconic Wemyss Bay railway station and pier.

The path will take walkers on a journey through Inverclyde's rich heritage and history.

Walkers will also be able learn about natural history, as well as enjoying Inverclyde's magnificent scenery and breath-taking views.

The Inverclyde coastal trail is supported by the Coastal Communities Fund. Keep an eye on the Council website and twitter for further updates.

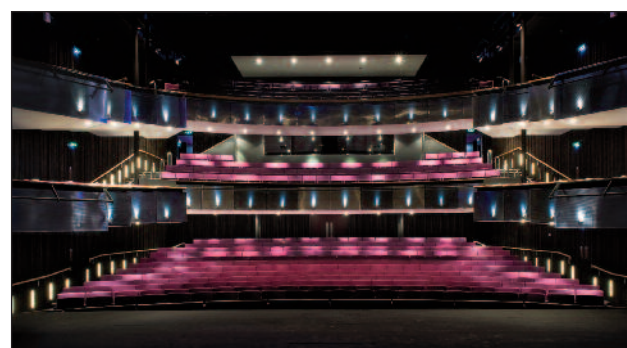
## Visitors going up

**Nearly half a million people went to visitor attractions in Inverclyde over the past year - a staggering 61% increase on the year before.**

Figures released by the respected Moffat Centre for travel and tourism business development show the new £10m Beacon Arts Centre (below) on Greenock's historic waterfront was the biggest draw with 144,698 visitors and the Greenock Cut, part of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, saw the biggest increase of 58.3%.

2014 was a truly wonderful year for Inverclyde, as we hosted the Commonwealth Flotilla, the largest flotilla in Clyde history which set sail from James Watt Dock. In October, Kip Marina hosted Scotland's Boat Show which attracted almost 15,000 visitors.

Environment & Regeneration Convener Councillor McCormick said: "These visitor number increases are a fantastic reflection of the facilities we have in Inverclyde and the warm welcome on offer. Every visit to one of our leisure, arts and visitor attractions is money into the local economy."



## Highland Games starts at Gourock



**A successful 2014 event has reinvigorated the Gourock Highland Games' reputation as the start of the Scottish Highland Games season.**

The Gourock Highland Games is the highlight in Inverclyde's event calendar and an important opportunity to promote the local area to visitors. The event is managed by Inverclyde Council and plans are in place to promote the games to attract a wider audience and help put Inverclyde on the map.

The event's continued popularity is due to the support it receives from the local area, so in adding new elements the objective is to create an enjoyable experience for locals and visitors.

**Gourock Highland Games is on Sunday 10 May 2015. Find us on Facebook & Twitter for updates.**

# Don't let a good thing go to waste

## Inverclyde launches kerbside glass recycling service

**Inverclyde Council is launching a new fortnightly kerbside glass recycling service to almost 28,000 households in December.**

The majority of residents who already recycle from the kerbside will receive a 40 litre black box for the storage and recycling of glass.

Boxes are scheduled for delivery to households in early December, with the first uplifts due on black bin collection days during the weeks commencing 8 and 15 December.

The new fortnightly collection service will complement the existing kerbside collection services and allow 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.

Commenting on the new service, Environment & Regeneration Convener Councillor Michael McCormick said: "in 2012 we introduced a food waste service and people have been very enthusiastic about recycling more of their household waste. The glass waste recycling process will allow Inverclyde residents to recycle even more glass and we can process it in a way that will help Inverclyde be a more environmentally friendly place to live."



The Council is rolling out a promotional campaign for its residents, which is supported by Zero Waste Scotland.

**For more information please visit [www.inverclyde.gov.uk](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk) or call the Recycling Helpline on: 01475 715901.**

## Campaign to end violence against women



**Every year, Inverclyde Council supports the International White Ribbon campaign which seeks to end violence against women. The campaign consists of 16 days of activism running from 25 November to 10 December 2014.**

Inverclyde Council's safer communities service, in partnership with Inverclyde's Women's Aid and Police Scotland, is urging people in Inverclyde to stop and think of the issues surrounding violence against women during the campaign.

Look out for White Ribbon in public buildings around Inverclyde during the 16 days of the campaign.

### If you are affected, please call:

Inverclyde Women's Aid	01475 888505
Sexual Abuse Service	01475 888110
Police Scotland	101
National Domestic Abuse Helpline	0800 027 1234
National Rape Crisis Helpline	0808 801 0302

### Further information is available at:

[whiteribboncampaign.co.uk](http://whiteribboncampaign.co.uk)

## New lease of life for local landmark and recycling centre

**Inverclyde's new £1.5 million up-to-date recycling centre in Greenock's Pottery Street.**

The improved centre includes a new access road for cars and vans and a one-way loop providing access to a series of designated bays and bins.

Environment & Regeneration Convener Councillor Michael McCormick said: "The improved facility separates the recycling centre from the day-to-day depot operations which has improved public safety and access to recycling facilities. Pottery Street is a welcome, boost to recycling in the area where we have already delivered an enormous 12% in the past two years - the highest of any Scottish council.

The £2.35 million conversion of Wallace Place in Greenock will see the building become the new home

of Greenock Central Library.

Built around 1880 - Wallace Place was the original Greenock General Post Office but became a free public library in 1902.

Renamed the Greenock Central Library in 1965, it moved to new premises in Clyde Square in 1970.

Vice Convener Councillor Jim Clocherty said "This is effectively a return to its old home for the library now that the Clyde Square building has become the office for Inverclyde CHCP. The new library will reflect modern trends in libraries with vast amounts of information available online and people able to access computers and Wi-Fi alongside tradition books, magazines and newspapers."

The first and second floors will also be modernised and refurbished to



accommodate more modern open plan Council office facilities for more than 80 staff.

Councillor McCormick added: "Wallace Place will continue to help consolidate Council services into the area while providing a new location for the Council's central library. It is welcome to see the historic building being brought back into use."



## Ready to face winter weather

**Inverclyde Council's roads teams are ready to tackle severe weather this winter.**

Over 5,000 tonnes of salt has been stockpiled and a fleet of modern gritters and snowploughs allows them to treat the road network and clear footpaths and access routes as and when required.

The Council can also call on labour, vehicles, plant and equipment from other Council services, local farmers and private contractors if the weather is extremely severe.

Environment convener, Councillor Michael McCormick said: "Our priority is to keep Inverclyde moving safely even during unpredictable conditions."














































## Remember to recycle this Christmas and New Year

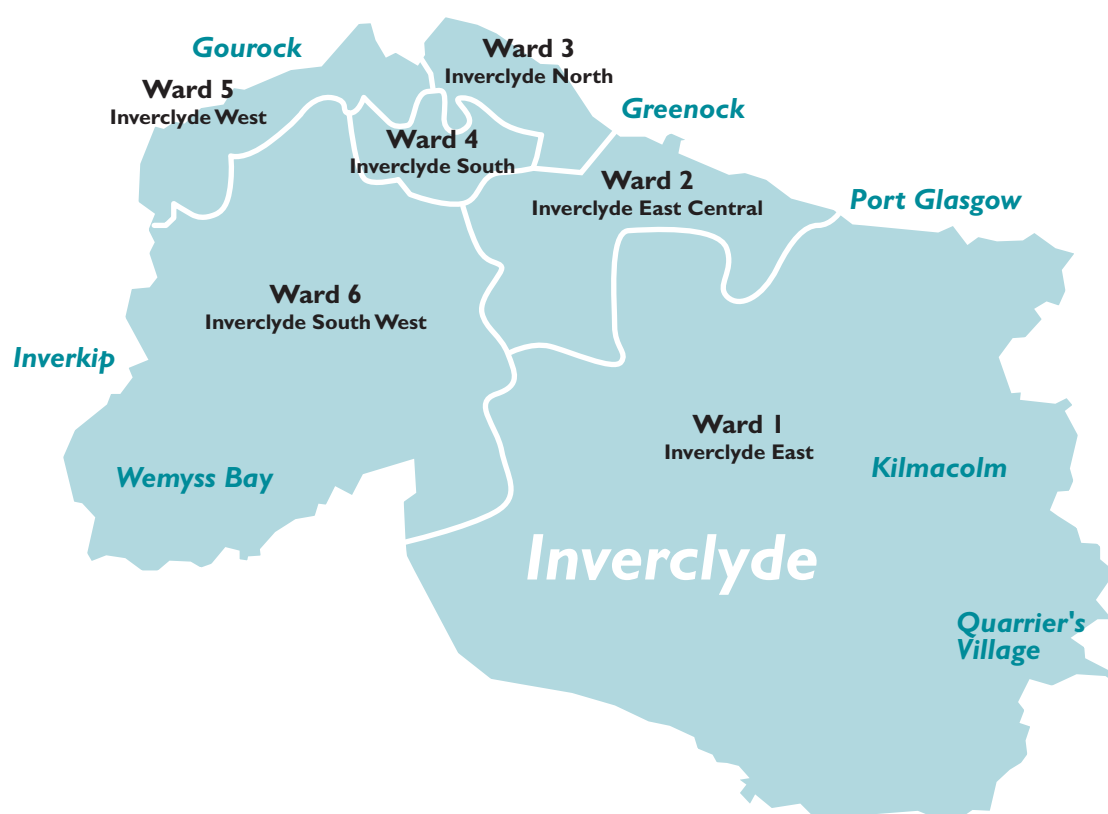
### Festive bin collections 2014

Normal day of collection	Revised day of collection
Mon 22 Dec	Regular collection
Tue 23 Dec	Regular collection
Wed 24 Dec	Regular collection
Thu 25 Dec	Sat 27 Dec
Fri 26 Dec	Sun 28 Dec
Mon 29 Dec	Regular collection
Tue 30 Dec	Regular collection
Wed 31 Dec	Regular collection
Thu 1 Jan	Sat 3 Jan
Fri 2 Jan	Sun 4 Jan

For the latest information on bin collections call: 01475 712713  
[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/winter](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/winter)

# Your Councillors

Ward 1, Inverclyde East		Ward 2, Inverclyde East Central		Ward 3, Inverclyde North	
	<b>Jim MacLeod</b> 		<b>Jim Grieve</b> 		<b>Martin Brennan</b> 
	<b>Stephen McCabe</b> 		<b>Michael McCormick</b> 		<b>Math Campbell-Sturgess</b> 
	<b>James McColgan</b> 		<b>Robert Moran</b> 		<b>Jim Clocherty</b> 
	<b>David Wilson</b> 	<b>Colour codes to political parties</b>  Conservative  Independent  Labour  Liberal Democrat  SNP			<b>Kenny Shepherd</b> 
Ward 4, Inverclyde South		Ward 5, Inverclyde West		Ward 6, Inverclyde South West	
	<b>Keith Brooks</b> 		<b>Ronnie Ahlfeld</b> 		<b>Gerry Dorrian</b> 
	<b>Vaughan Jones</b> 		<b>Terry Loughran</b> 		<b>Innes Nelson</b> 
	<b>Joseph McIlwee</b> 		<b>Chris McEleny</b> 		<b>Ciano Rebecchi</b> 



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](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk)**

# Inverclyde Winter Festival

Enjoy the magic of Christmas with events, shopping and festive fun around Inverclyde this winter.

Whether you see the Christmas lights sparkle, sing along to carols sung by choirs or browse crafts at an array of festive fairs, there is something for everyone this year in Inverclyde.

## Christmas Lights Switch On

### DECEMBER

**Wed 3**

**Port Glasgow** Christmas Lights Switch On @ The Port Glasgow Library **6pm**

**Gourock** Christmas Lights Switch On @ Gourock Pierhead **6pm**

**Thu 4**

**Greenock** Christmas Lights Switch On @ Clyde Square **6pm**

**Fri 5**

**Quarriers Village** Christmas Lights Switch On, @ Quarriers Village **4.30pm**

**Inverkip** Christmas Lights Switch On @ Inverkip Primary School **6pm**

**Kilmacolm** Christmas Lights Switch On @ Kilmacolm Community Centre **6pm**

**Wemyss Bay** Christmas Lights Switch On @ Wemyss Bay Community Centre **7pm**

All Council car parks in Greenock town centre - including £1-a-day car parks - are unrestricted on the four Saturdays in December 2014!

## Shopping, Eating & Crafting

### NOVEMBER

**Mon 24**

**Christmas Grotto & Carnival**  
@ Cardwell Garden Centre, Lunderston Bay until 24 December

### DECEMBER

**Mon 1**

**Wreath Making Class**  
10am-2pm @ Finlaystone, Langbank

**Fri 12**

**Festive Menu launch**  
@ Three Sisters Bake, Quarriers  
Delicious two or three course festive feed available from £15.95 until 24 December

**Sat 13**

**Santa's Huskies**  
@ The Oak Mall, Greenock

**Tue 16**

**The Port High School Choir**  
@ The Oak Mall, Greenock

**Sat 20**

**Santa's Huskies**  
@ The Oak Mall, Greenock

**Wed 24**

**See Santa**  
@ Cardwell Garden Centre, Lunderston Bay

## On Stage and Screen

### NOVEMBER

**Fri 28-Sat 6 Dec**

**Aladdin The Pantomime**  
by the Greenock Players  
@ The Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock.  
**7.30pm and a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm**

### DECEMBER

**Wed 3**

**Christmas Concert** (Inverclyde Music Services) @ Greenock Town Hall **7pm**

**Thu 4-6**

**The Crucible** (The Old Vic)  
@ The Waterfront Cinema, Greenock **7pm**

**Sat 6**

**McLean Museum Music and Merriment**  
@ The McLean Museum, Greenock  
There will be three musical performances by 'Live Music Now' musicians and a free sketching workshop with local artist Anne McKay; call 01475 715624 to book. **11am - 4pm**

**Sun 7**

**Bolshoi Ballet - La Bayadere**  
@ The Waterfront Cinema, Greenock. **7pm**

**Tue 9**

**John** (National Theatre Live)  
@ The Waterfront Cinema, Greenock. **7pm**

**Fri 12-Sat 3 Jan**

**Cinderella The Pantomime**  
@ The Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock  
Pantomime fun for all the family starring River City's Paul James Corrigan, Samantha Shields and a host of Scotland's top talent. **7pm and additional weekend times**

**Sat 13**

**Die Meistersinger Von Nurnberg** (Metropolitan Opera) @ The Waterfront Cinema, Greenock. **5pm**

**Thu 18-21**

**It's A Wonderful Life**  
- Live Radio Play @ The Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock. **7.30pm and a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm**

**Thu 21**

**Bolshoi Ballet - The Nutcracker**  
@ The Waterfront Cinema, Greenock. **3pm**

**Wed 31**

**Berlin Philharmonic**  
@ The Waterfront Cinema, Greenock. **4.30pm**

**Wed 31**

**The Nearly New Year Hogmanay Show & Hogmanay Ceilidh**  
@ The Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock. **8pm**

## Book Week Scotland

### 24 - 29 NOVEMBER

**Mon 24**

**Storytelling Live with Ronnie Fairweather**  
@ Port Glasgow Library. **1.20 - 2.20pm**

**Tue 25**

**An evening with Lin Anderson**  
@ Greenock Central Library. **7 - 8.30pm**

**Thu 27**

**An evening with Lesley Riddoch**  
@ Gourock Library. Ticket only (available from Gourock Library). **7 - 8.30pm**

**Sat 29**

**Astrosaurs Vs Cows in Action**  
@ South West Library (suitable for children). **10.30 - 11.30am**