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employer award**

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Ocean terminal Wyllieum plan

Plans are being developed which could create a permanent home for a George Wyllie exhibition in Greenock.

For, Inverclyde Council, as part of the Glasgow City Region City Deal have prepared proposals which could incorporate a 'Wyllieum', a permanent exhibition and arts space, into a new Greenock Ocean Terminal building.

The project, being developed in partnership with Peel Ports, will, if approved, deliver a new visitor centre and berthing facility in Greenock to safeguard and grow the cruise ship market to Inverclyde. As part of the outline business case, it is estimated that an increase to 100 cruise ships and 150,000 passengers through Greenock Ocean Terminal could deliver £26m in annual visitor and crew spend to the Scottish economy.

Inverclyde Council's Environment and Regeneration Convener, Councillor Michael McCormick, said: "The Greenock Ocean Terminal project was already an exciting one as part of the wider City Deal to safeguard and grow the cruise ship visits to Greenock. The possibility of the building being an iconic structure on the banks of the Clyde which could be a permanent home to the George Wyllie collection will come as a very positive opportunity to the

many admirers of George's work."

"As a key City Deal project, Greenock Ocean Terminal aims to make a significant contribution to economic growth and international tourism across the wider city region area."

The George Wyllie Foundation said: "The Trustees welcome this opportunity to create a home for the George Wyllie Foundation on the Clyde in Greenock, so that George's legacy can continue to engage and inspire the community and visitors to Scotland. This proposed new arts space will provide a new resource for exhibitions, education and community projects."

The Greenock Ocean Terminal project to create a visitor centre and berthing facility is expected to cost £14.7m as part of the £1bn Glasgow City Region City Deal which is funded equally by the Scottish and UK governments.

The proposal for a new Wyllie exhibition space could also include a new landmark building for Greenock being developed by Richard Murphy Associates, one of Scotland's most celebrated architect firms.

If the outline business case is approved, a parallel design proposal for the Greenock Ocean Terminal will be undertaken with a second option incorporating a new George Wyllie



A NEW BERTH: Ocean Terminal have plans for Wyllie Collection

exhibition space. The decision on the final building option is expected to take place in early 2018.

The Glasgow City Region City Deal is an agreement between the UK Government, the Scottish Government and eight local authorities across Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.

It will fund major infrastructure projects, create thousands of new jobs and assist thousands of unemployed people back to work, as well as improving public

transport and connectivity, driving business innovation and growth and generating billions of pounds of private sector investment.

Find out
more about
Glasgow City
Region City
Deal
at
[glasgowcity
region.co.uk](http://glasgowcityregion.co.uk)



HEALTH: New centre revealed

First look at new health centre

The first visuals of how a new Greenock Health and Care Centre will look have been released.

The centre is planned to open in 2020 replacing the current, ageing Greenock Health Centre in Duncan Street.

Inverclyde's Health and Social Care Convener, Councillor Robert Moran, said: "The new centre will aim to provide a new modern health and social care premises and will expand the range of services available from the current health centre."

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of InView



As we head towards the end of another year, it is a good opportunity to look back.

Over the past year, there have been many areas of huge improvement and service delivery across the council.

One of the major ones was the extremely positive best value audit.

Many people will remember a similar exercise the Council went through where Inverclyde was branded as one of the poorest performing areas.

Now, the auditors have come back, examined the area and highlighted the enormous change that has been delivered by officers, councillors and partners.

Among the many positives they highlighted the council's approach to managing its finances.

In this edition of Inview, you will see in the centre pages a range of savings proposals which officers have been working hard to develop.

None of the proposals set out here have been agreed by councillors.

Councillors all agreed that these savings proposals should be issued for public consultation. That consultation is expected to take place in January after the UK Government makes its Autumn statement and the Scottish Governments issue its grant settlement proposals to Scottish councils.

It is important to emphasise that the savings are just that, proposals.

No decisions have been taken and will not be taken on these until the public have had their say.

The proposals have all been reviewed by the cross-party members budget working group and the only decision made is to consult on them.

As it stands the proposals put forward on their own are still not enough to plug the budget gap over the next two years.

The council has managed to contain as much as possible budget savings in previous years.

Given the scale being faced the only thing that can stop this level of savings would be a more generous than expected budget settlement in December.

That would give the council an opportunity to examine the savings proposals in the clear light of the actual budget proposal from the Government.

The settlement in December from the Scottish Government will be key in determining whether the council meeting that month will require to agree further savings above the ones planned to go out to consultation in January.

I hope you will take the time to let the council know your views on the savings proposals when the consultation is launched in the New Year.

Top tax year

Inverclyde Council has seen a record year for the collection of council tax.

Despite another challenging year the in-year collection level increased to 95.3% - its highest ever.

Payment by direct debit has continued to rise with 76% income being received by this method.

Find out more about payment methods on the website.

Raise a petition

Residents across Inverclyde are being urged to use the petitions committee to raise issues.

Councillor Jim MacLeod said: "Petitions can give a voice to a particular topic or issue and with sufficient support can help to shape the direction we take on key decisions."

To raise a petition go online at www.inverclyde.gov.uk/petitions

Gold award for armed forces support



ROYAL APPROVAL: Prince Harry (left) and Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon (right) hand over the award to chief executive, Aubrey Fawcett, veterans support officer Jane Duncan and Councillor Gerry Dorrian.

Inverclyde Council was presented with the Ministry of Defence's highest badge of honour at a prestigious award ceremony at the Imperial War Museum in London.

The Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Award is given to organisations who have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and demonstrated outstanding support for those who serve and have served.

Armed Forces Champion Councillor Gerry Dorrian travelled to London to accept the award on the Council's behalf. He said: "We have come a long way in the five years since we signed the Armed Forces Covenant providing support for our veterans and serving personnel. Their devotion and dedication to their country and communities deserves our respect and gratitude and it is important that we show our support in whatever way we can."



EMPLOYER
RECOGNITION
SCHEME

GOLD AWARD

Resolving complaints

If something goes wrong, or you are dissatisfied with services, the Council is urging you to get in touch.

It is easier to resolve complaints if you make them quickly and directly to the service concerned. So please talk to a member of staff at the service you are complaining about. Then they can try to resolve any problems on the spot.

Complaints are valued and used to help improve services.

You can raise a complaint in person at any office, by phone, in writing and by email.

SOLUTION



By phone call the relevant service area or department.

By post Complaints, Inverclyde Council, Municipal Buildings, Greenock, Inverclyde PA15 1LY

By email comments@inverclyde.gov.uk

If you need to find out more please visit:
www.inverclyde.gov.uk/complaint

Search for and apply for public sector jobs online



www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/inverclyde



Full time early learning is child's play

The phased introduction of full time early learning and childcare is underway in Inverclyde.

All children at Blairmore Nursery in Greenock are currently enjoying six hours of activities every day.

Head Teacher Marie Crawford said: "Staff are excited to be part of this phasing programme and the response from parents has been very positive. Many parents are working and these new hours reduce or eliminate the cost of childcare. Others are delighted that they are now able to seek part-time employment."

Jade Lynch from Greenock's four year old son T-Jay will be attending full time in October. She said: "I have got myself a job out of this. This allows me to work full time knowing that T-Jay is safe, having fun with his friends and learning."

Allison Borland from Greenock has a four year old son Ross at the nursery. She said: "I had to cut my hours by half when I had Ross but this gives me the potential to go back full time. Ross is excited to be spending more time with his friends."

The Scottish Government has announced its commitment to increase entitlement to early learning and childcare from 600 hours a year to 1,140 hours for all three and four year olds and some two year olds by 2020.

Education & Communities Convener Councillor Jim Clocherty said: "The expansion will require substantial levels of investment both in terms of staff and buildings. That is why it is so important to take a phased approach, learn what is required to provide the high quality of education and childcare that is expected and identify any areas that need to be worked on."

Six additional fulltime and three part-time posts have been created at Blairmore where 56 children will be eligible for fulltime placements.

It is estimated more than 110 Early Years officers along with associated managers and support staff will be required to fully implement the 1,140 hours provision by 2020.

The Scottish Government has stated that the expansion will be fully funded.



NURSERY: Councillor Jim Clocherty (right) joined Blairmore Nursery pupils and headteacher Marie Crawford (left)

Online payments rollout to schools with ParentPay

Parents at schools across Inverclyde are enjoying a more convenient way to pay for school meals and a selection of school trips online.

ParentPay can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week using a secure online account activated using a unique username and password.

The roll-out of the new system to all schools began in October following a successful pilot at two primary and two secondary schools during the last academic year.

Education Convener Councillor Jim Clocherty said: "Parents have been telling us for some time they would prefer a more convenient and secure way to pay for school meals and trips. With this system they have the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever they like."

Making a payment is straightforward. ParentPay holds a payment history and no card details are stored in any part of the system. Once an account is activated, payments can be made online

straight away.

Parents who need to continue making payments by cash may continue to do so at school. A facility to make cash payments using the PayPoint network at local convenience stores is also being introduced.

Parents with more than one child at the same school, or children at other ParentPay schools, can create a single account login for all their children.

For further information on ParentPay visit www.parentpay.com



The education of children 2016/17

91.9%

of 16 - 19 year olds are participating in education, training or employment compared to 91.1% nationally. This is a 0.7% increase on 2016.

Attendance rates



S5 achieved 1 pass at level 6

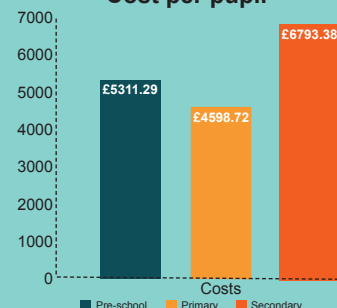


5S6 achieved 3 passes at level 6

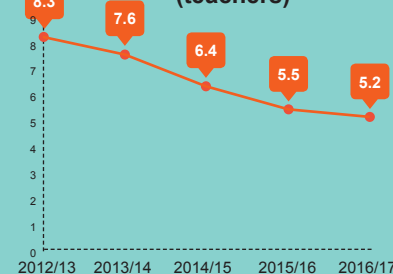


S6 achieved 5 passes at level 6

Cost per pupil



Days lost due to sickness absence (teachers)



100%

of primary and secondary schools are meeting the national targets for PE

Active schools a soaring success

Inverclyde Active Schools have enjoyed another successful year getting more children and young people involved in sport and physical activity.

A comprehensive programme of competitions, coaching courses and strong connections with local clubs saw nearly 4,000 pupils attend at least one session last year.

Working with sportscotland the Active Schools team organise events to help raise awareness of the importance of taking part in sport and physical activity.

Hundreds of youngsters at primary and secondary schools took part in 'Scottish Women and Girls in Sport Week'.

Inverclyde is ranked 5th in Scotland for female participation but Communities Vice Convener and Young Person's Champion Councillor Natasha Murphy said more needs to be done: "The percentage of girls taking part in extra-curricular sport in Inverclyde is already above the Scottish average and that is a statistic we are very proud of.

"We know how crucial sport is

to good health and well-being, self-esteem and developing social skills but despite our successes in some areas there is still a marked difference in the numbers of women and girls taking part in some sports compared to men and boys."

Throughout the week pupils across Inverclyde took part in a wide variety of sports and physical activities including netball, dance, football, trampolining and volleyball. The week culminated in Active Girls Day where schools, clubs and community sport hubs celebrated the efforts going into girls' sport.

Inverclyde Council's Sports Champion Councillor Ronnie Ahlfeld said: "As a country Scotland has a lot to be proud of when it comes to women and girls in sport. We have achieved some significant successes on the international stage which in turn provides wonderful role models for the next generation to aspire to. I am delighted that we have been able to play a significant role locally in tackling the many barriers to participation and encouraging women and girls to take part."



Roads and lighting 2016/17



88.8% of street lighting repairs were completed within seven days



93.5% of traffic repairs were completed within 48 hours



In 2016/17, 17.7% of road carriageways in Inverclyde were reconstructed or resurfaced

Footways resurfaced

% of footways resurfaced	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
2.5%			
1.1%			
1.0%			

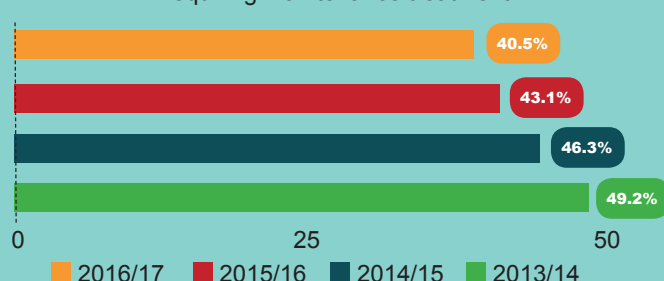


The percentage of the roads network that requiring maintenance treatment has improved from 49.2% in 2013/14 to 40.5% in 2016/17

Road gullies emptied

road gullies emptied per year	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
13,918			
8,870			
7,680			

Percentage of the roads carriageway condition requiring maintenance treatment



Winter brown bin waste collections and recycling

With winter well and truly with us householders are being reminded that brown bin collections will be suspended until the spring.

From Monday 20 November until March next year there will be no collections of garden waste.

For the final pick-up of 2017 residents should leave their brown bin beside their blue bin on their regular recycling collection day during the week beginning Monday 6 November or Monday 13 November.

During the winter months garden waste can still be recycled at the Council's Pottery Street and Kirn Drive Recycling Centres. Both are open seven days a week from 8am over the winter and close at 6pm.

Environment & Regeneration Convener Councillor Michael McCormick said: "We have a fantastic record on recycling in Inverclyde and I am pleased we can maintain a seven days a week service throughout the year. The slight change to opening hours and the suspension of brown bin collections shouldn't affect people who already recycle and we can continue to work towards reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill."

Householders wanting to use a van or a trailer should use the Pottery Street facility and contact staff in advance on 01475 715901.



Please check www.inverclyde.gov.uk and local press for details of opening hours during the festive season.

The Recycling Helpline number is 01475 715901.

Budget consultation on proposed savings to start in January

A budget consultation examining savings proposals for Inverclyde Council is to start in the New Year.

Councillors have agreed that the saving proposals be put out to consultation at the full council meeting.

Inverclyde Council Leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe, said: "The Council is facing a potentially difficult period with a possible budget gap of £13m over the next two years and the loss of 160 jobs across the Council.

"It is important though to thank our trade union colleagues for the constructive role that they have played once again through the Joint Budget Group. I continue to think this is a model of good practice.

"There is still significant uncertainty around the approach to public

expenditure the UK Government will outline in the autumn statement and the subsequent decisions on the funding of local government services that will be taken by the Scottish Government.

"On balance therefore I think it is sensible to delay the consultation until we have greater certainty around our funding settlement from the Scottish Government.

"It is important to emphasise that the savings proposed by officers in the Council are just that, proposals. No decisions have been taken and will not be taken on these until the public have had their say.

The proposals have all been reviewed by the cross-party members budget working group and the only decision made is to consult on them.

"As it stands the proposals put forward on their own are still not enough to plug the budget gap over the next two years. The council has managed to contain as much as possible budget savings in previous years. Given the scale being faced the only thing that can stop this level of savings would be a more generous than expected budget settlement in December.

"That would give the council an opportunity to examine the savings proposals in the clear light of the actual budget proposal from the Government.

The settlement in December will be key in determining whether the council meeting in December will require to agree further savings above the ones planned to go out to consultation in January.



Trade Union anti austerity call agreed by councillors

Inverclyde Council has joined a trades union call for an end to austerity and a fair local government budget settlement.

The move comes as a motion was agreed at the latest council meeting.

The full text of the motion agreed by councillors read:

Inverclyde joint trade unions motion to Inverclyde Council

Inverclyde Council has had to manage significant budget pressures for over a decade. Each year over that period the budget settlement for Inverclyde Council has reduced in real terms. Successive Governments at both a UK and Scottish level have presided over the funding regime during this period.

The council have adopted different approaches to deal with this problem. On the one hand they have made efficiency savings which has eased budget gaps by increasing income or reducing spending but without any impact in services.

On the other hand, and to a lesser extent, they have reduced or withdrawn services. Moving forward both the council and the trade unions recognise that there is less and less

scope for further efficiency savings.

Further reductions in the settlement grant will inevitably lead to services being reduced or withdrawn. This will in turn impact on the most vulnerable people in our communities.

This council and trade unions believe that austerity as a political and economic strategy is completely discredited and has inflicted untold damage on our workforce, public services and our communities.

This council and trade unions resolve to:

- ▶ Publicly and consistently advocate for a fair local government settlement.
- ▶ Persuade Governments to make money available to ensure that vital services for Inverclyde residents are maintained at the level required for communities that are amongst the poorest in Scotland.
- ▶ To work jointly in campaigns at all levels of Government against austerity and the impact of austerity on local government services.

- ▶ To invite the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Scotland to Inverclyde to visit the vital council services that are under threat due to continued UK Government austerity.

The motion was proposed by Inverclyde Council Leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe, seconded by Councillor Colin Jackson with an amendment put forward by Councillor Christopher McEleny and seconded by Councillor Innes Nelson which included the phrase: "To invite the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Scotland to Inverclyde to visit the vital Council services that are under threat due to continued UK Government austerity."

Inverclyde Council has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Scotland to invite them to Inverclyde.



In January, the council is planning to launch a public consultation.

The proposed savings, outlined on pages six and seven of this edition of *InView*, have not been agreed. The only decision is that they are issued for consultation as part of the council's budget process.

When the consultation is launched, there will be promotion and advertising.

Look out for information on the budget consultation on the council website at:

inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay

You will also find updates on social media including on twitter: @Inverclyde





Budget savings proposals

The budget saving proposals which were agreed on 28 September 2017 to go to public consultation in January are listed below. Savings figures represent the first full years savings and staff savings are full time equivalent (FTE).

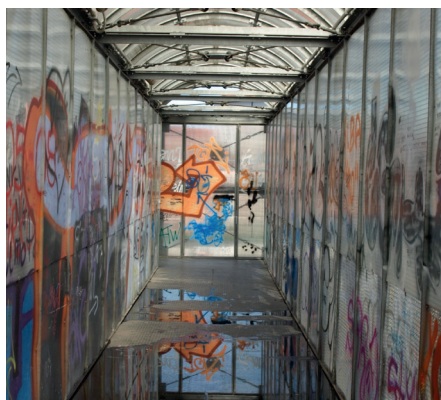
Events

Reduction in support from the council for local events.
Budget saving - £40,000
Staff saving - 0.5



Community wardens

50 per cent reduction in the community warden service.
Budget saving - £357,000
Staff saving - 14



Community learning and development (CLD)

Reduction in funding for community work, adult learning, adult literacies, youth work, administration and a reduction in senior posts.
Budget saving - £320,000
Staff saving - 11.5

Museum

Reduction to opening hours within museum and carry out service review of staffing.
Budget saving - £70,000
Staff saving - 2.5

Under 19 sports

Removal of the under 19 sports subsidy.
Budget saving - £160,000
Staff saving - 0

Care and repair

End Care and Repair contracted service, bring grant support service for adaptations in-house and create a single small repairs service within Inverclyde.
Budget saving - £193,000
Staff saving - 0

Grants reductions

Reduction to grants to voluntary organisations budget of 47 per cent.
Budget saving - £114,000
Staff saving - 0

Employability

15 per cent reduction in employability contracts with external providers.
Budget saving - £398,000
Staff saving - 1

CCTV

Closure of public space CCTV system.
Budget saving - £188,000
Staff saving - 6.5

Increase parking charges

Increase daily parking charges from £1 to £2 and introduce new parking charges in currently free car parks.
Budget saving - £180,000
Staff saving - 0



Libraries

Reduction in Central Library opening times, transfer of Inverkip and Kilmacolm to community groups, and closure of South West Library.
Budget saving - £302,000
Staff saving - 11.4



Whinhill golf course

Transfer of Whinhill Golf Club to a third party. Saving as a result of efficiencies or income generation.
Budget saving - £20,000
Staff saving - 0

Riverside Inverclyde funding

Reduction in annual funding to Riverside Inverclyde (ri) and reduction in economic regeneration funding.
Budget saving - £209,000
Staff saving - 0



Youth connections funding

Remove funding from Youth Connections and dispose of redundant property.
Budget saving - £120,000
Staff saving - 0

Closure of community facilities

Closure of a number of underused community facilities and the removal of a number of primary schools from community letting.
Budget saving - £194,000
Staff saving - 6

Inverclyde Leisure funding

35 per cent reduction in fee to Inverclyde Leisure resulting in reduced opening hours, increased charges and potential closure of some facilities.
Budget saving - £491,000
Staff saving - 0

Meals on wheels charges

Increase charges for 'meals on wheels', meals at day centres and support at home by 10 per cent.
Budget saving - £18,000
Staff saving - 0

Community alarms charge

Introduce a weekly charge for community alarms in line with all other Scottish Councils. Proposed charge is £3.50.
Budget saving - £314,000
Staff saving - 0



Music service

Reduction to musical instruction services and increase music instruction fees.
Budget saving - £158,000
Staff saving - 2.6

Registrars charges

Increase registrar's non-statutory charges by 10 per cent.
Budget saving - £5,000
Staff saving - 0

School budgets

Reduction to the devolved school management budget for consumables of 25 per cent.
Budget saving - £220,000
Staff saving - 0

Benefits services

Reduction of posts within benefits service.
Budget saving - £168,000
Staff saving - 5.5

Roads maintenance

Reduction in roads, winter and verge maintenance
Budget saving - £212,000
Staff saving - 2



School cleaning

Reduction in cleaning frequency in non-hygiene areas within schools.
Budget saving - £374,000
Staff saving - 22.6

Street cleaning

Reduction to front line street sweeper and clean up operatives.
Budget saving - £379,000
Staff saving - 16

Breakfast clubs

Remove provision of centrally funded breakfast clubs in primary schools.
Budget saving - £154,000
Staff saving - 6.5



Burial and cremation charges

Increase to burial and cremation charges.
Budget saving - £210,000
Staff saving - 0

Advice services

Redesign of advice services team resulting in a reduction to staffing. Use anti-poverty reserve to smooth impact of saving over a three year period.
Budget saving - £210,000
Staff saving - 6

Customer services in Port Glasgow

Closure of Port Glasgow customer service desk and reduce resources at Greenock customer service centre.
Budget saving - £120,000
Staff saving - 5



Commercial waste charges

Increase commercial waste charges, withdrawal of kerbside glass recycling and move to three weekly residual waste uplift.
Budget saving - £289,000
Staff saving - 9



Tax increase proposal

Council tax
Three per cent increase in Council Tax in 2018/19:
Budget saving - £1.75m



Visit the council's budget consultation pages at www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay for more information on the council's budget.

Builders kept busy on school estate programme

Inverclyde is a hive of building activity with five major projects underway as part of the Council's £270 million investment in its school estate.

Work is well underway on the new £9.2 million St Ninian's Primary School in Gourrock. The building – on the blaes gravel pitches at the current school site – will have 13 classrooms, a gym, dining hall, music room and a library over two stories.

Moorfoot Primary – also in Gourrock – and Lady Alice Primary in Greenock are being completely refurbished with state of the art classroom equipment being installed along with an upgrade of the existing building and playground spaces.

Work is also underway on the new early years and childcare facility –

Glenpark Early Learning Centre – in Greenock's West End.

The £2.68 million building is on part of the old Greenock Academy site and will be home to 100 children with views out over the River Clyde.

Contractors are also poised to begin work on the new home of Glenbrae Children's Centre which will move to premises in Aberfoyle Road following a £1.1 million refurbishment of former office space.

Also in the pipeline but expected to get underway next year are the multi-million pound refurbishment and extension of St Mary's Primary and extension of Gourrock Primary schools.

Education Convener Councillor Jim Clocherty said: "These current and planned projects are worth over £30 million and I am delighted we



have been able to maintain the pace, momentum and significant level of investment in our school estate. We have always made education our priority and it is clear for anyone to see that we have backed up that commitment with action.

"Our children and young people now enjoy the best education facilities in Scotland and that money can buy. We are pressing ahead with our comprehensive programme to ensure every child is being taught in a new or fully refurbished school by 2020. The clock is ticking but we are making excellent progress to

delivering that promise."

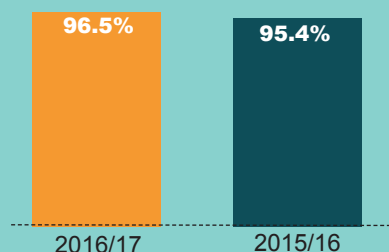
The latest project to be completed is the £1.3 million refurbishment of the Bluebird Family Centre in Greenock.

The nursery has undergone a complete transformation including a new extension at the main entrance, re-roofing and new surfacing in the playground and soft play areas.

The nursery operated out of temporary accommodation in St Joseph's Primary school while work was being carried out before moving in during the October holidays.

Protective services 2016/17

Anti-social behaviour:
% response time (high priority)



7.5 hours

is the average time between a domestic noise complaint and attendance on site.

100% of high priority public health complaints were attended by the next working day

90.6% of medium priority public health complaints were attended to in two working days

95.2% of low priority public health complaints were attended to in five working days



Pest control service requests attended within five working day



Trading Standards advice completed within 14 days



Trading Standards consumer complaints completed within 14 days

33%

of Citizens' Panel respondents have noticed a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months



Hate Crime destroys lives.

Help stop it – Report it!

Report Hate Crime to Police Scotland or visit the website for information on reporting to other supporting agencies.



#HateCrime

@PoliceScotland

PoliceScotland

scotland.police.uk



Inverclyde Council - a disability confident leader

Inverclyde Council has become only the second council in Scotland to achieve leadership status in a scheme for employers to recruit and retain disabled people.

Disability confident - run by the UK Government - aims to challenge attitudes, remove barriers and improve opportunities to disabled people and those with long-term health conditions.

Council Leader Councillor Stephen McCabe said: "We are Inverclyde's biggest employer and we recognise that a diverse workforce brings a range of skills, experiences and backgrounds that are invaluable to us. We also have a responsibility to reflect the diversity of our communities and to remove the barriers people face to employment and that includes any type of discrimination or harassment."

By achieving disability confident leader status the council has been recognised for acting as a champion within the Inverclyde business and local communities.

Keith Macaldowie had been living with depression for nearly 10 years

and had also suffered problems with employers because of his dyslexia.

After being signed-off from a previous job he found support through the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) and Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership.

This led to classes with Inverclyde Council's Community Learning & Development and a qualification as a classroom support assistant. He now works for Inverclyde Council.

He said: "I have now been placed in a high school and the satisfaction that I get from being able to let a child who may have a learning difficulty to understand something – and to see the smile on their face – is brilliant."

As a disability confident employer the council guarantees a job interview for all applicants with a disability who meet the essential requirements for a vacancy; ensures disabled employees can develop and use their abilities; makes every effort to retain employees who become disabled, and ensures all staff develop their own disability awareness.

Councillor McCabe said: "The obvious benefits of being disability confident include the council being able to draw from the widest possible pool of talent for skilled, loyal and hard-working staff. But it also sends out a very clear signal to employees, our partner agencies and local business about the type of organisation that we are - one that treats all employees fairly."

Keith Macaldowie added: "I would like to thank Inverclyde Council giving me the opportunity to be in this position. What do I bring to this job? - life experience and a desire to work. What do I get back? – my self-esteem and the chance to provide for my family. If there can be one message to other employers it is this. Give anyone with a disability a chance."

Energy efficiency is light on track

The council is close to completing a £3.1 million programme that will see its street lighting carbon footprint cut by more than half.

Over 5,000 new LED or light-emitting diode street lights have been installed in Kilmacolm, Wemyss Bay, Inverkip, Quarriers, Gourock and Port Glasgow.

And a further 3,500 will be fitted in Greenock early next year.

Environment and regeneration convener Councillor Michael McCormick said: "These new lights

have considerable advantages not least the fact they are far more efficient requiring around half of the power consumption of the old ones. They will also last much longer – up to 25 years – and require less servicing and maintenance which is obviously great for reducing costs."

LED's come on with full brightness instantly and will restart immediately following a brief power failure or other fault. 700 new street lighting columns are also being installed in the next year.

Job boost from schools



Six modern apprentices have been recruited to work on three multi-million pounds schools projects in Inverclyde.

Hub West Scotland (HWS) is working in partnership with Inverclyde Council on the new £9.2 million St Ninian's Primary and £2.6 million Glenpark Early Learning Centre and the £5 million refurbishment of Moorfoot Primary.

As part of each project, the main contractor CCG has been looking to create employment opportunities for local young people.

Together we make a family

Have you thought about adoption?
Call 01475 715367

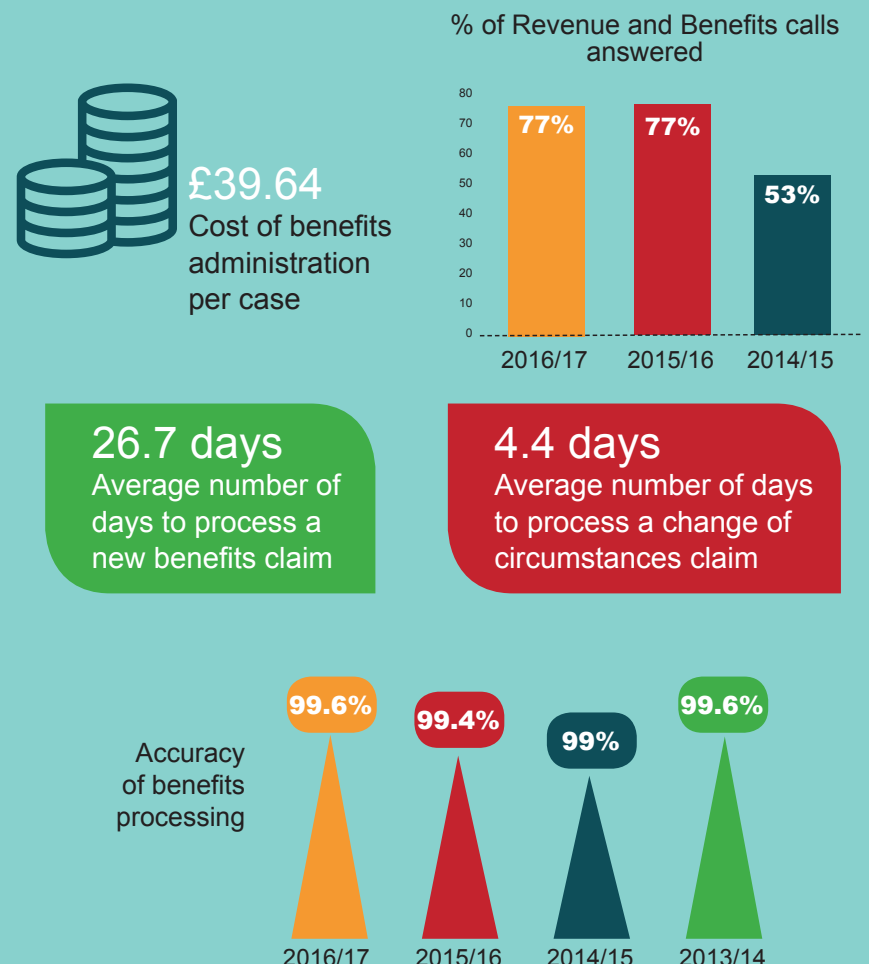
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Inverclyde council

The apprentices are:

- Matthew Skilling (20) Greenock, *Bricklaying*
- Liam Gill (18) Greenock, *Bricklaying*
- Kieran Hendry (18) Greenock, *Joinery*
- Shaun Knox (24) Greenock, *Joinery*
- Lauren McKenna (17) Greenock, *Plumbing*
- Robert Cairns (23) Port Glasgow, *Plumbing*

Benefits administration 2016/17



Community at heart



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: New Inverclyde Councillors, Natasha Murphy, Lynne Quinn and Elizabeth Roberston

The three women elected to serve on Inverclyde Council in May have been speaking about their first six months in office and what motivates them to make a difference in Inverclyde.

All three come from different backgrounds but all three have one thing in common – a desire to make a difference in the communities they represent and serve.

Natasha Murphy (Ward 7) is the youngest of the current crop of Councillors. After studying business and theology she works for the Church of Scotland as a children's & youth worker at three local churches in Inverclyde.

She thought long and hard about standing for election but ultimately couldn't find a reason not to: "The job is everything I imagined it would be. The hardest aspect is making difficult decisions out of necessity and also to a degree within a political setting.

"I have really enjoyed getting to know the wider community better and understanding things from an Inverclyde-wide perspective. The hours and role varies from week to week but after all, we are here to

serve our community as best we can."

Lynne Quinn (Ward 5) worked in financial services before setting up Inverclyde Happy Tots – a parent support group which has been running for seven years.

She served on Gourock Community Council for five years but felt she could be more proactive and better help to her community by becoming a councillor.

"I am in no way political but I felt if it is not me standing for election who would it be? I thought it was an opportunity to get a working mum's voice inside the council and to make a positive impact.

"If you look at voluntary groups across Inverclyde they are mostly run by women so they should be in the council chamber helping to set policy."

Before she was elected, **Elizabeth Robertson** (Ward 4) worked for Inverclyde Council with spells in regeneration, the chief executive's office and education.

She has always wanted to be a voice for other people and knew that at some point she would able to

represent the people of Inverclyde in some capacity.

"I wouldn't do it anywhere other than Inverclyde and standing for election was the best decision I have made in a very long time. It has been challenging – especially balancing council and family commitments – but it has been worth it."

She highlighted there is an important role that all three of them can play by inspiring other women to consider standing for election in the future.

"If you don't see women in the council chamber it is hard to see how you could be a councillor – do people just see it as a place for others

"You want different kinds of people – a reflection of Inverclyde – to be in the council chamber making the decisions. We need to portray politics in a more positive light because there are 22 people in that chamber who want to do what is right for Inverclyde."

A view echoed by Natasha Murphy and by Lynne Quinn: "We are not just here because we are female. We are here because we want to make a difference."

Backing voter campaign for young people

The council is backing a voter campaign targeting young people across Inverclyde and Renfrewshire.

The campaign is being run by Renfrewshire valuation joint board, responsible for voter registration and Modern Democracy

Look out for the social media campaign using **#VoterInfo**

InView has joined with the joint board and Modern Democracy to bring you the top five reasons to register to vote:

1 It's easy

Registering is simple and easy to do. The valuation joint board has even developed an app called 'Renfrewshire voter registration' which can be downloaded from Google Play and the App Store.

2 Have your say

The Governments and local councils make decisions that will affect how you live your life. Using your vote means that you can select a candidate or a party that shares your political views and aspirations.

3 The right to vote has been hard won

In the 1800s only five per cent of the population in the UK had the right to vote. In 1918 the Peoples Act granted some woman the right to vote in general elections. It wasn't until 1928 that men and woman were both granted the right to vote. Your vote matters and using it honours the countless people who got it for you.




















4 Most young people do use their vote

The stereotype of young people not being interested in or using their vote was broken in 2017 which saw the biggest rise in young voters aged between 18-24. Young voters are now beginning to become more involved with political procedures.

5 Electoral registration can help your finances

If a voter's credit report contains their electoral register details then it can increase the chance of getting credit such as mortgages and loans. Banks are known to use the electoral register to help confirm an individual's identity.

Your Councillors

Ward 1 Inverclyde East	Ward 2 Inverclyde East Central	Ward 3 Inverclyde Central	Ward 4 Inverclyde North
 Christopher Curley	 Jim MacLeod	 Colin Jackson	 Martin Brennan
 Stephen McCabe	 Drew Mckenzie	 Michael McCormick	 Graeme Brooks
 David Wilson	 Robert Moran	 Jim McEleny	 Jim Clocherty
Ward 5 Inverclyde West	Ward 6 Inverclyde South West	Ward 7 Inverclyde South	 Elizabeth Robertson
 Ronnie Ahlfeld	 Gerry Dorrian	 John Crowther	
 Chris McEleny	 Innes Nelson	 Tommy McVey	
 Lynne Quinn	 Ciano Rebecchi	 Natasha Murphy	

Colour codes
to political
parties

Independent

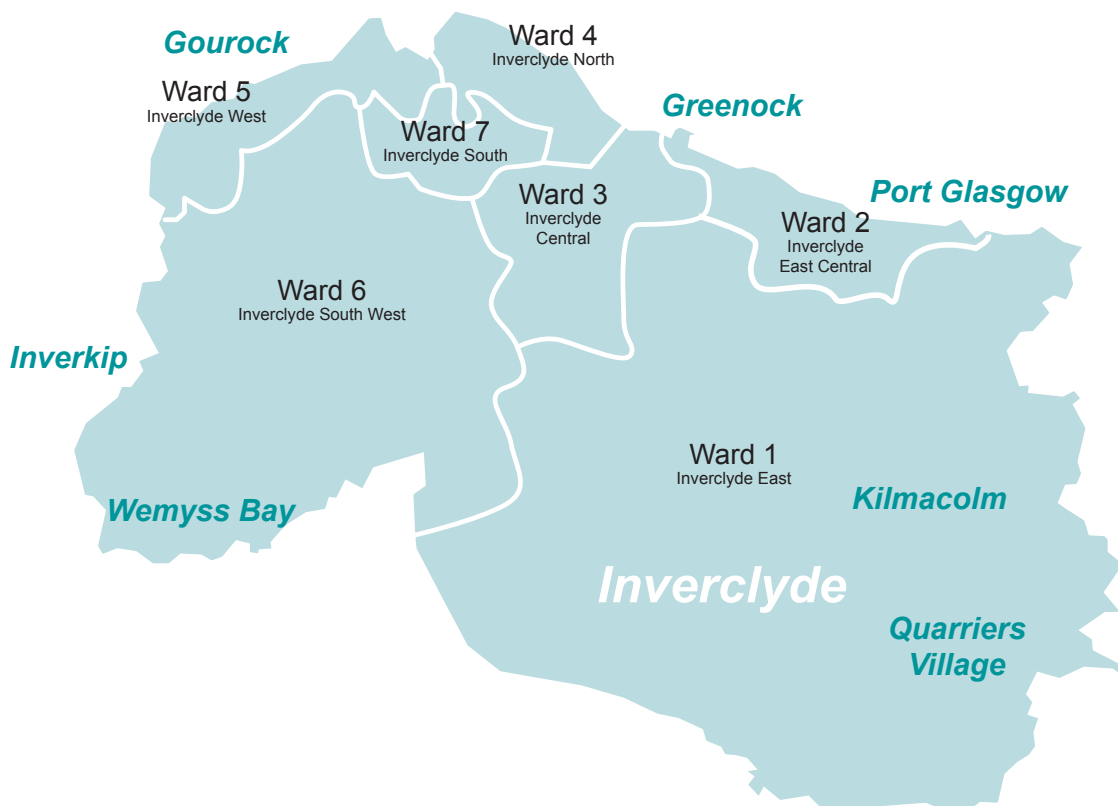
Independent
(non-aligned)

Scottish
Conservative
and Unionist

Scottish Labour
Party

Scottish Liberal
Democrats

Scottish National
Party (SNP)



You can write to your Councillor at:
Inverclyde Council
Municipal Buildings
Clyde Square
Greenock
Inverclyde PA15 1LY

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

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

You could be a trusted trader

What is it all about?

Trusted trader is an independent scheme run by Inverclyde Council's trading standards service

It aims to increase consumer confidence and encourage the success of business that trade fairly within Inverclyde

Who can apply?

The scheme is aimed at the home improvement sector and other household related services.

What's in it for your business?

- Recognition of your business standards based on real feedback
- Publicity on Inverclyde Council website
- Use of 'trusted trader' logo
- Access to Inverclyde Council's trading standards expertise to help you understand and comply with consumer protection legislation

Who's running it?

The scheme is run by Inverclyde Council's Trading Standards service. For more information visit:
www.inverclyde.gov.uk/trustedtrader

What will it cost?

Trusted trader membership fees are payable at the time of the initial acceptance on to the scheme. A fee of £50 will be levied in the first year of the scheme. After the first year a fee of £100 per year. These fees may be revised in the future. Prices include website entry and data processing for feedback forms. Access to the trusted trader website is free to consumers.

Want to join our trusted trader scheme?

Go to our website at:
www.inverclyde.gov.uk/trustedtrader
to download an application form or
contact trading standards at
trusted.trader@inverclyde.gov.uk
or telephone our contact centre on
01475 717171

You could be a
trusted trader



Inverclyde
council