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INVERCLYDE ON THE GROW

Branded copies of 'Scotland Homes' were handed to commuters at Central Station in Glasgow to promote Inverclyde.



The Inverclyde message was taken on the water with an Inverclyde branded powerboat across the UK.



Scotland's biggest outdoor advert was used to promote Inverclyde before the Ideal Home Show.



Repopulation in Inverclyde could soon become a reality.

For, the latest mid-year population statistics for Scotland showed that people moving to Inverclyde is higher than those leaving for the first time.

In 2011, the gap was 305 in favour of people leaving Inverclyde.

The gap has been narrowing since then. Now the latest statics show 'in-migration' overtaking 'out-migration' for the first time.

Inverclyde Council leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe, said: "These statistics show that more people are coming to Inverclyde than leaving. The fact that the pattern is moving up the way is good news for

our area and one that we must all continue the momentum to keep it moving in that direction.

"While the overall trend is still projected to be a reducing population, the statistics are increasingly more positive with the rate of decline predicted to slow. Now these increases in people coming to live here show that we can make a dent in that overall trend and, potentially, reverse it.

"The council and our community planning partners launched the 'Inverclyde living' campaign to promote our area and encourage repopulation. At the most recent council budget, we have allocated

additional funding to focus on marketing Inverclyde as a place to visit and live and to examine the housing development opportunities in our area.

"I would urge all of our partners and residents to join us in continuing promoting what we know to be true – that Inverclyde is one of the best places to live in Scotland."

According to statistics produced by the office of national statistics, the annual rate of decline up to 2026 in Inverclyde is expected to reduce.

The in-migration statistics show that 73 per cent of in-migration to Inverclyde has come from other parts of Scotland.

Year of young people 2018

The Year of Young People 2018 in Inverclyde features a wide-range of events to recognise and celebrate their achievements and community contribution.

A spectacular torchlight event on the banks of the River Clyde was the setting for the official launch where Provost Martin Brennan said: "Young people are too often and easily criticised when in fact the vast majority are responsible, caring and play a constructive role in their communities."

Working with Inverclyde Youth Council young people themselves have come up with a packed programme of events ranging from musical festivals to beach parties.

Members of Inverclyde Council's iYouth Zones will compete against each other in a series of inter-iZone competitions during their summer programmes and will head down to Dumfries in July for the two-day Youth Beatz festival.

Events will take place locally during September and October and in November Inverclyde will take centre stage for the national the Year of the Young Person Awards ceremony. All 32 of Scotland's councils will the contributions young people make to their communities.

For dates of Inverclyde events and to keep up to date with the Year of young people follow us on Facebook and Twitter @iyouthwork and @YOYP2018



SUPPORTING
year of young people
bliadhna na h-òigridh
2018



Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of InView



This is the first edition of Inview in 2018 and we start the year with sad news and some very good news for our area.

The sad news is the loss of someone who played a major role in the delivery of our education services over the past 11 years.

Inverclyde's Corporate Director of Education, Wilma Bain, died after a battle with cancer. Wilma was a key part of our education success and her passing has been heart breaking for the council and all local government colleagues who knew and worked with her.

Our area and our education services in particular are stronger and better for the hard work of Wilma and the teams she led.

The good news for our area is in the legacy of the success of our education services and the ongoing delivery of our school estates programme.

The council is nearing the end of what is one of the most ambitious school building programmes in the entire country.

You will see in this edition of InView that the work continues and that we are delivering more new and refurbished schools.

The buildings are designed to give

the best possible location for our young people to learn in.

The results are not just nice buildings. The result is in the high quality, sector leading, services we are delivering for our young people.

The other area of extremely positive news is that in-migration, the number of people moving to Inverclyde, has overtaken the number of people leaving.

Repopulation is a key priority for the council. It is not just about having more people in the area, it is about unlocking the potential of our area, ensuring communities are sustainable and, on a practical level, the higher our population the more funding we receive.

The council has argued for a long time that an unduly pessimistic view has been taken of Inverclyde's population statistics.

These latest figures are cause for some real optimism. The key will be how we all capitalise on this and keep the momentum up.

Councillor Stephen McCabe
Leader of Inverclyde Council



Provost Martin Brennan and Rhys McCole

Youngest chieftain marks the year of young people 2018

The annual Gourock Highland Games started this year's Scottish Highland Games season with a nod to the national year of young people celebrations.

For, 16 year boxer Rhys McCole became the youngest Chieftain in the 62-year history of the games.

Rhys is a member of the SportScotland and Young Scot's Young People's Sports Panel as well as being an ambassador for Inverclyde for the Year of Young People 2018.

He said: "Being Chieftain of the Gourock Highland Games is a great privilege and something I will cherish forever. I am greatly honoured. It is a great opportunity to promote the

young people of Inverclyde and the Year of Young People."

Gourock Highland Games is organised by Inverclyde Council and supported by partners River Clyde Homes, Inverclyde Active Schools, Taste Inverclyde, Riverside Inverclyde, Gourock Community Sports Hub and Parkdean Resorts.

The piping competitions at Gourock Highland Games are run under the auspices of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA).

The Gourock Highland Games also teamed up with VisitScotland as an official member of the partner programme for Scotland's Year of Young People 2018.

Kerbside glass

The kerbside glass collection service will end as of

1 July 2018

Please continue to use the service until then

You may use your black box to take glass to your nearest recycling point. If you wish to return your box these can be recycled at Pottery Street Recycling Centre.



www.inverclyde.gov.uk/recycling
Recycling Helpline 01475 715901

Inverclyde
council

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myjob
scotland.gov.uk

www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/inverclyde

Sentence sends out a warning to butcher fraudster

Inverclyde Council's trading standards team played a key role in the successful prosecution of an Inverclyde butcher caught with more than 13,000 illicit cigarettes.

Adam Johnstone-Smith admitted Excise Duty fraud worth £4,500 after the cigarettes along with hand-rolling tobacco was seized at his shop in a joint operation between the council and HMRC helped by Dixie the sniffer dog and her handler.

Inverclyde Council Communities Convener Councillor Jim Clocherty said: "Illicit tobacco undermines every health initiative to reduce smoking rates. This particular trader was not registered to sell tobacco nor was he displaying the statutory notice warning that it is illegal to sell tobacco to under 18's.

"Smoking is the biggest preventable killer in Scotland. All cigarettes are dangerous but illegal ones even more so because they are not checked and could contain anything.

"We will continue to play our part in the nationwide effort to carry out enforcement exercises targeting rogue traders."

Johnstone-Smith was ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work when he appeared at Greenock Sheriff Court.

Anyone with information about the illegal sale of tobacco should contact the fraud hotline on HMRC **0800 788 887**



DIXIE: Councillors Jim Clocherty and Natasha Murphy congratulate Dixie on a job well done

Compassionate Inverclyde provides end of life care

A new project delivering a public health approach to palliative care in Inverclyde is being hailed a success a year after it was officially launched.

Compassionate Inverclyde – a partnership between Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and Ardgowan Hospice – is an ambitious programme aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of people facing potentially life-limiting illness, dying, death and bereavement.

Health and Social Care Convener Councillor Robert Moran said: "A key strength of Compassionate Inverclyde is the fact people and patients are consulted at every stage. They are at the heart of everything we do.

"We are working effectively with each other at individual, community and multi-agency level but it is the personal touch that really makes the difference.

"It is probably the most difficult and traumatic time that any one individual, family or circle of friends will endure and it is not just the emotional impact that needs to be addressed.

"There can be real physical and physiological symptoms associated

with the stress and uncertainty a devastating diagnosis can trigger.

"By working together as a community in caring for our own family, friends, neighbours and indeed strangers who are at the end of life at home or in a hospital we can really make a positive difference."

Community engagement and development has been carried out across all age groups and organisations within Inverclyde involving schools, churches, workplaces, community centres, hospital, local hospice, youth groups and voluntary organisations.

Inverclyde Royal Hospital has become the first hospital in Scotland to have the No One Dies Alone (NODA) programme. Local people were concerned about many people living and dying on their own. Volunteers provide support to those in their final hours who do not have family or friends available to be with them.

Another idea developed in the community has been 'back home boxes'.

Concerns had been raised about people living alone being discharged from hospital with no means of getting to the shops and having no food in the house. The back

home box contains basic essentials donated by the public, allowing the person to be able to make a light snack and a hot drink.

Councillor Moran added: "The initiative has allowed people of all ages get involved - from young

people in youth groups creating get well soon cards to local knitting groups knitting knee blankets and local companies such as Amazon who have donated the boxes themselves - a great example of a whole community approach."



Image source: Shutterstock

A budget for Inverclyde's communities

Inverclyde Council will invest nearly £6million in services this year despite facing a funding gap of just over £3million.

In total just over £1million in budget savings from the recent budget consultation have been taken as part of the budget for 2018/19.

Council Leader Councillor Stephen McCabe said: "The Council will also be taking forward nearly £2million in savings delivered through a range of reviews and restructures which have already been agreed.

"These decisions never get any easier. We have done all that we can to minimise the number of posts

that will be lost by the Council and the impact this will have on essential services.

"Thanks to our prudent financial management over the past decade – which was highlighted in the recent Best Value Assurance inspection report from Audit Scotland - we are in the position of being able to make significant investments in our communities.

"An additional £200,000 has been allocated to support our dementia and autism strategies. We have also set aside £22,000 a year to provide free sanitary products in schools to tackle the issue of period poverty.

"There have been tough decisions – many of them unpalatable – but all have been carefully considered and informed by widespread and detailed public consultation.

"Councillors from all corners of the chamber have been involved in the process.

I believe this consensus has allowed us to reach decisions that are ultimately the best we can do for Inverclyde given the difficult and challenging financial situation local government in Scotland finds itself in.

"While there are some who are disappointed and in some cases

disbelieving I would like to stress that none of the savings were taken without careful consideration and discussion.

"In an ideal world we would not have to make any cuts or savings. The reality sees us having to make these difficult decisions every year.

"I believe the budget we have set is the very best we can deliver in the current climate.

Our aim always is to ensure we continue to deliver the high quality services our communities rely on alongside a programme of investment Inverclyde needs and expects."

Additional Investments:



£1.3m investment for facilities including Lady Octavia Sports Centre (£470,000) and Boglestone Community Centre (£830,000). The Council also plans to invest an additional £150,000 in developing a new tennis facility in Inverclyde to bring the council contribution to the project to £500,000



£850,000 to fund replacement cremators at Greenock crematoria



The budget also proposes an ambitious three-year capital programme covering the period 2018-2021 with investment of just over £68m, with £21m to be invested in our education estate. Projects for this period include:

- **£5.8m on the refurbishment and extension of St Mary's Primary School**
- **£1.6m on an extension to Gourock Primary School**
- **£1m on refurbishing Hillend Children's Centre**
- **£350,000 on the upgrade of Larkfield Children's Centre**
- **The council carried out a budget consultation earlier this year on a range of savings and charges increase proposals**



£500,000 to fund an action plan geared towards promoting repopulation measures to attract people to Inverclyde

Savings:

An increase in all day parking charges in Council-owned car parks from £1 to £2 from July expected to increase income by £42,000

Introduce a £2.50 weekly charge for community alarms to bring the Council into line with other Scottish councils

Council tax has been increased by 3 per cent meaning Band D council tax is set at £1,233.94

£159,000 reduction in economic and regeneration funding for urban regeneration company Riverside Inverclyde (ri)

Free swimming for over 60s has been withdrawn saving £77,000 and the management fee paid by the Council to arms-length organisation Inverclyde Leisure has been reduced by £102,000 on condition that any subsequent average increase in prices is limited to 2.5 per cent

School clothing double-boost



Image source: Shutterstock

Parents and carers in Inverclyde are in line for a double-boost when it comes to buying new school uniform thanks to a key Inverclyde Council budget decision.

Councillors had already agreed to increase the core clothing budget to £90 when the Scottish Government said it would pay £50 towards a minimum £100 payment per pupil.

Inverclyde will now ensure everyone who is eligible for the grant receives £100 before the summer holidays begin at the end of June.

Once it is clear how much the Scottish Government is contributing the Council will make a second payment to parents and carers in December.

Education and Communities Convener Councillor Jim Clocherty said: "We will make sure every penny available for clothing grants is paid to the people who need the money the most.

"I am especially pleased we will be able to make a second payment before the Christmas holidays as this is a time when many families already struggle financially.

"Many children have already outgrown or outworn their uniforms and we have been contacted in the past by parents and carers asking for the possibility of a top-up to help pay for them.

"A second payment will allow us to effectively make that top-up available so that parents and carers can afford

to replace school clothes mid-way through the year."

Children are entitled to free school meals and a clothing grant if parents or carers receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support (IS);
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA);
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, and where income is less than £16,105 (in 2017/18) as assessed by the Inland Revenue;
- An asylum seeker receiving support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related) (ESA);
- Parent or Carer is in receipt of maximum Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income under £6,420;
- Universal Credit - where maximum monthly income from employment does not exceed £610, as shown on monthly Universal Credit statements.

Councillor Clocherty added: "It is vital parents or carers who think they may be eligible to register with the Council.

"Retailers are falling over themselves to offer quality kids' clothes at competitive prices. By shopping around families can make their money go that bit further and clothe their children for the new school year."

Young care leavers free council tax

Young care leavers in Inverclyde are being reminded they do not have to pay council tax.

Anyone who is at least 18 years old – but under 26 – and previously in the care of Inverclyde Council are exempt from council tax.

Council Leader Councillor Stephen McCabe said: "Care leavers face many barriers as they grow into adulthood and all-too-often homelessness and poverty can hold them back in life. This is one measure that should ease any financial pressures they face."

A young person who has left care and lives on their own is exempt from council tax. If they share a home with one other person the other person will still be entitled to a 25% single person's council tax discount.

The council has agreed to fund the initiative as part of the 2018/19 Budget and wants to encourage as many care leavers to benefit as possible.

In 2015 Inverclyde Council became the first local authority in Scotland to

sign up to the Scottish Care Leavers' Covenant promising increased support for young people who have been brought up in care.

The Covenant is a commitment to improve the lives and opportunities of young people leaving care as they enter adulthood.

Support now offered by the council includes developing skills to manage finances and budget on a limited income, help finding suitable housing, financial support for essential furnishings and household goods (average spend around £3,000) and help with benefit applications.

Councillor McCabe added: "The move from care to living independently can be problematic so like any other parent we have a duty and a responsibility to help these young people achieve their full potential.

"This is another positive step in meeting the needs of our care leavers and offering them the support we would want for our own children."

CARE LEAVERS FREE COUNCIL TAX



Anyone who believes they are entitled to a care leaver's council tax exemption should contact the throughcare and aftercare team on

01475 715020

School estate investment on track

Inverclyde Council's unprecedented £270million school estate investment is on track to be completed five years early.

The final major project in the programme delivering brand new or fully refurbished schools is about to get underway.

St Mary's Primary school in Greenock is to undergo a £6million refurbishment and extension. Gourock Primary is also due to undergo a £1.7million extension.

The new £9.2million St Ninian's Primary in Gourock and £3.4million Glenpark Early Learning Centre are due to be completed along with the refurbishments of Moorfoot

Primary in Gourock - £5million - and Lady Alice Primary in Greenock - £3.8million.

Education and Communities Convener Councillor Jim Clocherty said: "To sustain this level of investment through such a sustained period of economic uncertainty and budgetary pressure is something we can be proud of in Inverclyde."

"Our school estate programme is without a doubt one of the most ambitious in the whole of the UK. This investment is one that has already delivered learning environments that are second-to-none for the vast majority of our children and young people."



Excitement builds at key projects



Colin Nelson, project manager for hub West Scotland, Cllr Jim Clocherty, Convener of Education and Communities, John Jamieson site manager from CCG and pupils from St Ninian's



Artist impression of Moorfoot primary

St Ninian's and Moorfoot primary schools in Gourock are both close to completion with staff and pupils due to move in over the summer months.

Moorfoot has undergone a £5million refurbishment which includes the creation of a new entrance plaza, senior playground and secure nursery playground. Classrooms have been fully updated and the building made easily accessible.

The new St Ninian's has been built on the blaes gravel pitches at the current school site where the existing building will be demolished once the work is complete.

The new building has 13 classrooms, a gym, dining hall, music room and a library over its two stories.

The £3.8million Lady Alice primary extension has seen the addition of a new main entrance and administration area along with a dining/activity hall.

New look nursery officially opened



L-R Gillian McDougall Head of Centre, Lily May (aged 4), Keira (aged 4), Hiltja Mulholland Early Years worker and Cllr Natasha Murphy

The Bluebird Family Centre in Greenock has been officially reopened after undergoing a £1.3million refurbishment.

The work includes a new extension, playground and soft play areas.

Communities Vice Convener Councillor Natasha Murphy unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion. She said: "Bluebird has been a part of this community for many, many years. Both of my younger brothers came here and I remember how much they loved it."

"Bluebird is a wonderful place for children to learn, play and grow and it is clear they love the flexibility and vibrancy of the new-look nursery."

The refurbishment includes new double-glazed windows, a lift and external ramps to the front and rear of the building.

The nursery had been operating out of temporary accommodation in St Joseph's Primary school while work was carried out.

New nursery close to completion

Inverclyde Council's brand new £2.6million early years facility in Greenock is nearing completion on a section of the old Greenock Academy site.

The Glenpark Early Learning Centre replaces the current 'west end' facility at Kelly Street Nursery and St Mary's Primary

All three playrooms – two accommodating 40 children and one accommodating 20 – have views out over the River Clyde.



Inverclyde rising to the attainment challenge



Image source: Shutterstock

Inverclyde Council's schools are closing the attainment gap and raising standards in reading, writing and numeracy.

The Scottish Government's interim evaluation of the first two years of the Attainment Scotland Fund shows a strong performance in most areas compared to both the national average and against other Attainment Challenge Authorities.

Education and Communities Convener Councillor Jim Clocherty said: "We are clearly among the best of the Attainment Challenge Authorities with English, writing and numeracy all doing well and there are certainly signs of the attainment gap closing.

"We are definitely making a difference in closing the poverty related attainment gap but it is too soon to be able to draw definitive conclusions about the overall impact of the funding. The relationship between poverty and health and wellbeing is complex and there are many factors that can have an influence on attainment.

"Certainly we are moving in the right direction and it is hugely encouraging to think of the improved opportunities our children and young people will be presented with as a result of this work."

Now in its third year, the centrally

funded Scottish Government initiative focuses on improving literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing with the objective of giving all pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds the best start in life.

Inverclyde was one of the initial seven Attainment Challenge local authorities in 2015.

Six Inverclyde primary schools were involved in the first year. In the second year the focus was on nine primary schools and has now been extended to include all six secondary schools and a total of 12 primary schools.

Key components in delivering the aims of the Attainment Challenge are through families and communities, meeting learning needs and leadership.

The Attainment Challenge team works with school staff and family support workers to identify children and families who would benefit from targeted interventions, building relationships and providing support.

Councillor Clocherty added: "We are working hard to make this a sustainable process – something that will continue when the funding from the Scottish Government eventually stops – and to build on our successes which have been recognised as examples of best practice."

Council presses parliament for Women 50:50 change

The Scottish Parliament is being urged to push forward legislative change that would encourage more women candidates in councils and the parliament in Edinburgh.

The motion, agreed by the council at its meeting in April highlighted the underrepresentation of women in chambers across Scotland. It also supports the Women 50:50 campaign call for legislated candidate quotas and backs fair representation of women across Scotland's council and parliamentary chambers.

Inverclyde Council Leader, Councillor Stephen McCabe, said: "Despite various parties trying different mechanisms to encourage more women into politics the time has clearly now come for legislative change."

The full text of the motion agreed at the council meeting reads:

"The council notes that women are under-represented across councils in Scotland and make up only 29% of councillors.

"Council further notes that whilst voluntary mechanisms such as all women shortlists, networks

and mentoring have made some progress, women are still not represented equally.

Council notes that despite these measures 29 per cent is the highest proportion of women in council in Scotland's history.

"The council congratulates the Women 50:50 campaign which has been working across all political parties and has gained support from the SNP, Scottish Labour, Scottish Liberal Democrats and Scottish Green Party leaders and co-conveners.

"The council supports Women 50:50's aim for fair representation of women in Scotland through legislated candidate quotas and backs the campaign's call for fair representation of women across Scotland's public life.

"The council recognises that women are not a homogenous group, and that in any of our outreach work to encourage and champion women we should ensure that we engage a diverse group of women from different races, cultures, religions, disabilities, socio-economic statuses and sexualities."

Citizens panel members confident with children and young people's services

Citizens Panel Members Confident with Children's Services.

Residents in Inverclyde have confidence in the services to protect vulnerable children and young people according to the 1,000-strong Citizens Panel.

The latest community consultation – created in 2007 – asked for views on protection of vulnerable children and young people, satisfaction with Council services and the concept of community food growing.

Nearly three quarters said they were very or fairly confident that the relevant services in Inverclyde will protect children and young people and help them if they are at risk of harm.

61 per cent of respondents expressed an interest in growing their own fruit, vegetables, herbs or flowers.

Inverclyde Council Leader and Convener of the Policy & Resources Committee Councillor Stephen McCabe, said: "Last year Inverclyde

received one of the most positive reports in the country on children's services with the Care Commission highlighting areas of excellence.

"It is heartening to see that residents have confidence in the services delivered locally to protect our vulnerable children and young people.

"While the vast majority of residents will never have direct contact with these services it is crucial they are aware that if they have concerns around the welfare of someone they know they can report it to the right people and that the right course of action will be taken.

"The information from the Citizens Panel is invaluable to help plan services and the way they are delivered across Inverclyde."

The latest survey, which was distributed last summer, has achieved one of the highest response rates of any survey completed in the past ten years in Inverclyde.

New I:DEAS for money management

A programme to help nearly 2,000 people in Inverclyde better manage their money and avoid debt misery has been launched.

The three-year I:DEAS (Inverclyde Delivery Effective Advice and Support) project aims to increase the financial capacity and improve the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged people and households in Inverclyde.

Council Leader and Welfare and Finance Inclusion Champion Councillor Stephen McCabe said: "When people run into money difficulties they often lose the ability to support themselves, becoming financially and socially excluded.

"This has a knock-on effect for the local economy, local landlords, businesses, the court system, council services, the health service and charities.

"This is why we must respond to the challenge not only to protect the most vulnerable in our community but to protect our community as a whole."

The £2.3million I:DEAS programme is funded jointly by the European Social Fund and Big Lottery Fund Scotland through the Delivering Financial Inclusion programme.

Maureen McGinn, Big Lottery Fund Scotland Chair, said: "I am delighted that the people of Inverclyde will benefit from this funding, thanks in part to money raised by National Lottery players. The I:DEAS service will help people who are facing disadvantage to improve their money

management skills and lower their debt burden, which often acts as a barrier to social inclusion."

Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership are the lead organisations in the scheme working with a range of local and national partners. They include Barnardo's; CVS Inverclyde; Financial Fitness; River Clyde Homes; Scotcash and the Wise Group together with the Council's Community Learning and Development service and Advice First service.

Councillor McCabe added: "We will work together to improve a person's current situation with their finances and give them the skills to ensure they have the ability and capacity to be able to continue with positive finances through their lives.

A big part of the service is to ensure that those who are socially excluded due to debt will no longer be. We will provide family support if required and are looking for volunteers and peer supporters to carry on with the work."



Image source: Shutterstock

Inverclyde Delivering Effective Advice & Support

I:DEAS

Do you have any debt or money worries and live in Inverclyde?



I:DEAS can help you...

Are you

- Workless household?
- Single parent?
- Employed but on a low income?

Contact us on



01475 715299



@inverclyde



IDEASreferral@thewisegroup.co.uk



EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Social Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

Have your say on the Inverclyde local plan

A public consultation is underway on a planning document setting out how and where investment and development can take place.

The local development plan supports three key priorities – repopulation, reducing inequalities and environment, culture and heritage.

The proposed Local Development Plan identifies land for over 5,000 new houses and over 20 hectares of land for new industrial and business development.

It also recognises historic and protected buildings and places – 248 listed buildings, 31 scheduled monuments and 57 local nature conservation sites – supports low carbon infrastructure and aims to

reduce the risk of flooding.

The consultation runs until 29 June 2018 and the new proposed Local Development Plan can be downloaded at **www.inverclyde.gov.uk/newldp**

Printed copies are available in libraries and Inverclyde Council's Customer Service Centre, Clyde Square, Greenock, Inverclyde.

Following the consultation period any unresolved objections will be considered at a Local Development Plan examination led by an independent Scottish Government appointed reporter. Planning policy will be happy to answer any queries on the plan. Available through **ldp@inverclyde.gov.uk** and **01475 712491**



Councillors surgeries are published in the events section of our council website

All roads lead to Inverclyde



SPUR ROAD: Above L-R: Ri board member Cllr Drew McKenzie, Cllr Michael McCormick, Port Glasgow Community Association Chair Anne Ross, RJ McLeod Site Manager Jim Stevenson and Ri Chief Executive Fiona Maguire. Picture credits - Duncan Bryceland (Greenock Telegraph)



PORT GLASGOW: New Spur Road

Transport links are key to the Council's town centre regeneration plans.

Work is underway to re-align a busy road through Greenock as part of the wider regeneration of the area.

The £2.5million project will remove the sharp corner between Baker Street and Drumfrochar Road by cutting through the site of recently demolished industrial buildings.

The scheme - delivered by regeneration company Riverside Inverclyde - will also include lower kerbs, landscaping and improving sightlines.

Inverclyde Council's Environment and Regeneration Convener Councillor Michael McCormick said: "This is an important project and one that is central to the wider investment in Broomhill by the Council, River Clyde Homes and Riverside Inverclyde.

"Realigning the road will address a number of potentially dangerous situations such as HGV's and buses being forced to give way to

oncoming traffic and having difficulty negotiating the corner.

"It should also reduce queuing during peak periods between Baker Street and Drumfrochar Road."

The road realignment works involve civil engineering, services diversions, retaining walls along with hard and soft landscaping to create a boulevard approach.

Work should be completed by spring 2019.

Councillor McCormick added: "There will be a degree of disruption - clearly road closures and diversions will be required over the course of the project. We will do all that we can to give as much notice as possible so people won't be caught out and inconvenienced too much."

A £1.8million community enterprise hub for small and medium-sized enterprises, micro businesses and business start-ups is also proposed for Baker Street.

The project is entirely funded by Inverclyde Council (£800,000), Riverside Inverclyde (£2million) and

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (£300,000 in 2017 and £500,000 for 2018).

The entrance to Port Glasgow town centre has been transformed with the completion of the new spur road and hard-landscaped civic space.

The new spur road has allowed motorists free access to the town centre from the main route in and out of Inverclyde.

Councillor McCormick said: "This is a key project for the regeneration of Port Glasgow and will significantly boost existing business as well as attracting fresh investment into the area.

"Providing better connections into the town centre was one of the high priority recommendations of the regeneration master plan for Port Glasgow so I am delighted this project has been completed.

The new spur road is part of a £1.96million regeneration project for Port Glasgow town centre.

The Port Glasgow Lower

Town Quarter project received a Regeneration Capital Grant award from the Scottish Government and COSLA in 2016.

The project was delivered on behalf of the Council by the urban regeneration company Riverside Inverclyde.

A Port Glasgow Town Centre Master Plan was developed in 2014 after extensive consultation with local residents and businesses who identified the development of a new gateway into the town centre as a priority for investment.

In addition to the new access road from the A8 the Port Glasgow Regeneration Strategy and Master Plan recommends environmental improvements to the town centre; removal of redundant buildings; the restoration of empty shop units to provide 'fit for purpose' retail space and new office and commercial accommodation.

Changes to Data Protection Law - 25 May 2018

Data protection law changed on 25 May 2018 introducing new rules on how the Council collects and processes personal data.

Personal data is information which relates to a living person who can be identified from the information itself - such as name and address, a school pupil's records or patient records.

The new law gives people more rights and control over how personal data is handled by organisations such as the Council.

With the continued development of technology, new definitions of personal data are being introduced such as IP computer address and mobile phone location settings. The new law introduces more safety measures about how personal data is used by organisations including taking into account how mobile technology captures personal data.

The Council is introducing new procedures and rules for deleting and removing personal data which

include to only use the minimum amount of personal data to deliver a service; to respond to personal data enquiries as quickly as possible and to notify people if their personal data is lost.

The Council will also be open and transparent with individuals about how their data is used. Full details can be found in the Council's Privacy Notices on our website www.inverclyde.gov.uk

A new Data Protection Officer has



been appointed to ensure the Council follows the new law in collecting and processing personal data.

Contact
dataprotection@inverclyde.gov.uk
or phone **01475 712498** or **712725**

Choosing the right service

New services have been added to GP practices across Inverclyde as part of the 'New Ways of Working' to improve access to healthcare for patients.

Professionals provide care based on their own area of expertise - from nurses and opticians to dentists and pharmacists - so it is vital people

Choose the Right Service.

For example a physiotherapist is based in some practices and would be the first person to see for muscle and joint pain. In some practices paramedics and specialist nurses are doing home visits while practice pharmacists help with medicine reviews.

All will recommend a patient see the GP if needed.

Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership has worked very closely with the local community group – Your Voice – who have given their full support to the new way of working.



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Saving on funeral costs

The Council is to offer bereaved families the opportunity for a budget funeral service.

A 'simple funeral' is where a service is carried out elsewhere - often at a funeral parlour - with the coffin then taken to the crematorium without any mourners.

Environment and Regeneration Convener Councillor Michael McCormick said: "Funerals can be extremely expensive and the often significant and unexpected cost is something else families and loved ones have to worry about. A simple funeral maintains all of the dignity and respect for the deceased you would expect but at a fraction of the cost.

Simple funeral services will be offered by funeral directors at Greenock Crematorium on weekdays between 8.15am and 8.30am and would not affect routine services that are already carried out on a daily basis. The cost has been agreed at £375.

Dementia fund boosts support

An additional £100,000 is to be invested by Inverclyde Council to help increase awareness and reduce the stigma of dementia.

The local dementia strategy aims to improve awareness and support so that people with dementia, their families and carers receive the best possible care.




Health and Social Care Convener Councillor Robert Moran said: "We have a higher than average ageing population in Inverclyde with the number of people living with dementia expected to rise over the next 20 years.

"The strategy is already proving effective in allowing more people with dementia to live safely and with as good a quality of life as possible at home or in a homely setting for as long as they and their family wish.

"This additional investment will allow us to build on the work that has already been carried out and to continue to develop services and support within Inverclyde."

A pilot programme co-ordinated by Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) to make Gourock a dementia-friendly town is ready to be rolled out across Inverclyde.

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:

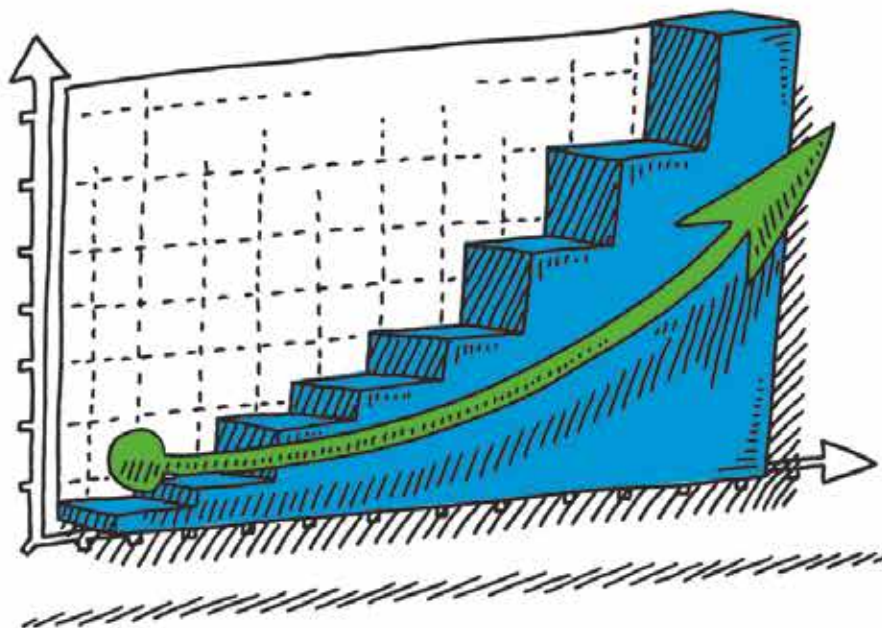
Inverclyde Council
Municipal Buildings
Clyde Square
Greenock
Inverclyde PA15 1LY

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



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Fiona MacEachern, Loch Lomond Brewery

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