
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	28 September 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	Report No:	LS/091/23
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01745 271 271
Subject:	Alternative Location for Gourock Flag Pole		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 ☒ For Decision ☐ For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to fulfil an outstanding remit, namely that, further to the meeting of the Council on 22 September 2022, officers were to consult with the Ward 5 Elected Members and Community Council and report back to a future meeting of the Council regarding a possible alternative location for the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole.
- 1.3 Following the above-mentioned consultation, and given that health and safety considerations mean the current flag pole is no longer suitable for use, it is proposed by officers that an alternative new flag pole should be installed on the Gamble Halls. Once the new flag pole is erected, then this would be used by the Council for the flying of flags in Gourock going forward, instead of the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole, which will no longer be used

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council agrees that the Gamble Halls is to be the new location for the flying of flags by the Council in Gourock.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Council notes that officers will take forward the installation of the new flag pole, and once the new flag pole is erected this would be used by the Council for the flying of flags in Gourock going forward, instead of the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 Inverclyde Council recognises a number of events and anniversaries by the flying of certain flags on certain days. At its meeting on 22 September 2022, the Council considered and approved a report on a proposed Flag Flying Protocol. A link to that report is provided here: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2490>
- 3.2 As part of that report, the Council was advised that, given a recent health and safety inspection, an alternative location should be explored for the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole. As such, Council agreed that officers would consult with Ward 5 Elected Members and the Community Council and report back to a future meeting of the Council regarding a possible alternative location for the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Further to the meeting of the Council in September 2022, officers sought feedback from the Ward 5 Elected Members and Gourock Community Council. Having done so, it is felt that the most suitable option is the Gamble Halls. This option is supported by all Ward 5 Elected Members.
- 4.2 To use the Gamble Halls a new flag pole would need to be erected, and Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent were secured for this earlier this year (references 22/0277/IC and 22/0014/LB), it being anticipated that this would likely be the most suitable option. It has been estimated that the cost for the supply and installation of a new 6m flag pole would be in the region of £5,000.
- 4.3 The proposed location of the flagpole is above the upper central window on the front elevation of the building. Internal access into the Caledonia Suite would be required to change the flag, and informal discussions with Inverclyde Leisure have indicated that their staff would likely be able to carry out flag duties on the Council's behalf, subject to suitable advance notice being given. If Inverclyde Leisure were not able to support this, for whatever reason, then the Campus Officers/BSU could undertake these duties.
- 4.4 The Gourock Community Council have also been consulted and are in agreement, having confirmed that at their meeting on 18 September 2023, there was unanimous support for the installation of the flag pole on the Gamble Halls.
- 4.5 Subject to the decision of the Council, officers will take forward the installation of this new flag pole, and once the new flag pole is erected, then this would be used by the Council for the flying of flags in Gourock going forward, instead of the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole.
- 4.6 As noted above, there are costs and officer time associated with purchasing and erecting a new flag pole. The Head of Physical Assets has confirmed the installation cost would be met from their health and safety budget (part of GRWA), given the reason why a new flag pole is needed.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial	X	
Legal/Risk	X	

Human Resources	X	
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

5.2 Finance

None, other than the officer resources involved in flying flags from different Council buildings. However, to date, all this has been contained within existing budgets. Currently, this includes the cost of BSU raising and lowering flags at Gourock Municipal Buildings, the cost of which is approximately £150 for each flag. However, going forward, on the assumption that the Gamble Halls is the agreed alternative, then BSU would likely no longer be required to undertake this task, and it would be dealt with by Inverclyde Leisure/Campus Officers.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Property	Health & Safety Budget	2023/24	£5,000		This cost is only estimated

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

None, other than potential health and safety considerations around the continued use of the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole.

5.4 Human Resources

None, other than the officer resources involved in flying flags from different Council buildings, and the above-mentioned health and safety considerations.

5.5 Strategic

There are no strategic implications arising from this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Corporate Management Team, the Ward 5 Elected Members and the Gourock Community Council have been consulted on the proposals in this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.