

Ref: FD

Date: 16 June 2025

A special meeting of the General Purposes Board will be held on Thursday 19 June 2025 at 3pm.

Members may attend the meeting in person or access the meeting by remote online access. The joining details will be sent to Members and Officers prior to the meeting. Members are requested to notify Fiona Denver by 12 noon on Wednesday 18 June 2025 how they intend to access the meeting.

In the event of connectivity issues, Members are asked to use the *join by phone* number in the Webex invitation.

LYNSEY BROWN
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

BUSINESS

1.	Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest	Page
2.	Notification by Loyal Orange Lodge – District 19 to hold a Procession on 28 June 2025 through parts of Port Glasgow Report by Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	

Enquiries to – **Fiona Denver** – Tel 01475 712109

Report To:	General Purposes Board	Date:	19 June 2025
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	Report No:	LS/098/25
Contact Officer:	Anne Sinclair	Contact No:	01475 712034
Subject:	Notification by Loyal Orange Lodge – District 19 to hold a Procession on 28 June 2025 through parts of Port Glasgow		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 ☒ For Decision ☐ For Information/Noting

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to ask the Board to consider the notification by the Loyal Orange Lodge – District 19 to hold a public procession through parts of Port Glasgow on Saturday 28 June 2025 and determine whether it is appropriate to make an order prohibiting the holding of the procession or necessary to impose conditions on the holding of it in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (“the Act”).
- 1.3 The notification has been submitted to the Council in terms of section 62 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Board are asked to consider the notification by the Loyal Orange Lodge – District 19 in light of the objections received by the Council and to determine whether it is appropriate to make an order prohibiting the holding of the procession or appropriate to impose conditions on the holding of the public procession.

Lynsey Brown
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 A Notice of Proposal to hold a Public Procession was submitted to the Council by the Loyal Orange Lodge – District 19 regarding the intention of the organisation to hold a procession on Saturday 28 June 2025 through parts of Port Glasgow. This notice was submitted in terms of section 62 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 on 15 May 2025.
- 3.2 The Notice of Proposal sets out that participants will gather at 9.15am at Boglestone Avenue and will leave at 9.30am to proceed along Ardmore Road, Springhill Road, Balfour Street, Shore Street, Princes Street, John Wood Street, Bay Street and Fore Street to the cenotaph. On the return, the procession will gather at Boglestone Community Centre at 4.30pm and at 4.45pm will begin proceeding along Dubbs Road and Boglestone Avenue for dispersal at Boglestone Avenue. The number of people expected to take part has been noted on the Notice of Proposal form as 60 with 1 band and 1 bus expected.
- 3.3 Following receipt of the Notice of Proposal, a copy of the Notice was intimated on 29 May 2025 to Police Scotland, the Community Council and Ward Councillors for Port Glasgow and the Council's Roads, Public Protection and Environmental Services. A Public Notice with details of the proposed procession was also published on the Council's Website and posted in Port Glasgow Library and Central Library on the same day. Consultees were asked to respond in writing to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital Services by 13 June 2025.
- 3.4 There have been no objections from Police Scotland or any of the Council's internal consultees in relation to the proposed procession on 28 June 2025. Police Scotland submitted a report to the Council with comments in relation to the proposal. A copy of the response from Police Scotland is set out in **Appendix 1** to this report. 7 objections have been received by the Council's Licensing Section. A copy of the objections are set out in **Appendix 2** to this report. The organisation has been given an opportunity in terms of the 1982 Act to make representation in writing in response to the objection should they wish to do so. Any written submission from the organisation in response to the objection which is received prior to the Board meeting, will be made available to members in advance of the hearing
- 3.5 The organisation and the objectors have been advised that they may be present or represented, either in person or remotely, at the meeting of the General Purposes Board to be held in relation to this notification.
- 3.6 In terms of section 63 (1) of the 1982 Act the local authority may, after consulting the chief constable, make an order –
 - (i) prohibiting the holding of the procession; or
 - (ii) imposing conditions on the holding of it.
- 3.7 Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights sets out the “right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association”. It is not an absolute right and a local authority may place restrictions on it if necessary. In terms of section 63 (8) of the 1982 Act the considerations to which the local authority shall have regard when deciding whether to prohibit the holding of a procession or impose conditions on it under this section shall include: --

(a) the likely effect of the holding of the procession in relation to –

- (i) public safety;
- (ii) public order;
- (iii) damage to property;
- (iv) disruption to the life of the community;

(b) the extent to which the containment of risks arising from the procession would (whether by itself or in combination with any other circumstances) place an excessive burden on the police.

(c) where the person proposing to hold the procession has previously held one in the area of the authority or the persons likely to take part in the procession, or some of them, are the same persons as took part in one previously held in that area, or some of them—

- (i) whether the previous procession was held in breach of a prohibition under this section on its being held or of a condition so imposed on the holding of it;
- (ii) whether any guidance or code of conduct issued by the authority as to the holding of the previous procession or as to the holding of processions generally was followed; and
- (iii) the effect of the previous procession in relation to the matters mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i) to (iv) of paragraph (a) above and in paragraph (b) above.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Board are asked to consider the notification by the Loyal Orange Lodge – District 19 in light of the objections received by the Council and to determine whether it is appropriate to make an order prohibiting the holding of the procession or appropriate to impose conditions on the holding of the public procession.

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
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

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

The organisation has recourse to the Sheriff Court in the event it wishes to appeal any decision of the Board.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no Human Resources implications directly associated with the report.

5.5 Strategic

There are no strategic implications arising from this report.

5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA has been carried out and can be accessed via the following link . https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2025
X	NO

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
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X

NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty.

(c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

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YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.

X

NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the public, internal consultees and external organisations as detailed in this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 N/A

PROCESSION SUMMARY

POLICE
SCOTLAND

Division: K Station: Paisley Date: 02/06/28 Order No: n/a
Day & Date of Procession: Saturday 28 th June 2025 Time outwards: 0930 hours Time inwards: 1630 hours Estimated number of persons in procession: 60
Name of band or association making application: Loyal Orange Lodge District 19
Applicant's name and address: Bryan Stewart, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Route outwards: Orange Halls - Boglestone Avenue, Port Glasgow - Ardmore Road - Springhill Road - Balfour Street - Shore Street - Princes Street - John Wood Street - Bay Street - Fore Street - Cenotaph.
Route inwards: Boglestone Community Centre - Dubbs Road - Bogleston Avenue - Orange Halls
Names of accompanying bands or bodies: Pride of the East
Reason for holding Procession / Historical Background: (eg. Annual / First Application / Event / Anniversary etc) Annual Boyne Parade

Operations Planning Unit / Divisional Enquiry Officer Risk Assessment / Observations:
(Please complete table below)

OBSERVATION	HIGH RISK	LOW RISK	IF 'HIGH RISK' PLEASE COMMENT
Risk to public safety?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk to Public order?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk of damage to property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Likelihood of disruption to the community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please See Below
Any risk identified from a previous procession involving that parade / band / organiser?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If granted, will this parade present a risk?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Signature:

Rank: PS Richard Trutwin

Sub-Divisional Officer

(Comments / Observations): This is an annual event and has caused no reported issues in the past.

The applicant does not feature on police systems for anything of note.

The parade route has been examined and appears to be in order. However, there is some likelihood of disruption to pedestrian and vehicular traffic should the parade go ahead.

The applicant was spoken to and has agreed to the following:

1. The provision of 6 stewards escorting the parade along the length of the route, all of whom will be distinguishable by high visibility clothing. This achieves the preferred stewarding ratio.
2. To make participants aware of street furniture on the route, which may prove to be a hazard.
3. No music shall be played whilst passing any place of worship whilst services are in progress.
4. The applicant will be present and in charge of the parade.
5. The parade will not start without the presence of the police.
6. All police instructions must be followed.

There are currently no competing events within the Division at this time.

There are no Police objections to this application.

There will be a Police presence.

Signature:

Rank: PS Richard Trutwin

Divisional Commander	
(Comments / Observations):	
<p>The Chief Constable, as a statutory Consultee to the Local Authority in connection with this proposed procession, submits the foregoing for consideration by the Authority. I am, on behalf of the Chief Constable, ready to attend any meeting which the Authority might arrange with those proposing to hold the procession to make further representations in support of this submission.</p>	
<p>The Chief Constable recognises that should an appeal be marked to the Sheriff against a decision prohibiting a procession, or a decision imposing conditions on a procession, that there is no express, legislative requirement that the Chief Constable be convened as an interested party to such an appeal. Nonetheless, and in accordance with the Guidance for Scottish Local Authorities issued by the Scottish Ministers in terms of Section 65 (A) of the 1982 Act, the Chief Constable expects to be consulted by the Local Authority in connection with any decision which is reached or prohibiting a procession or placing conditions on it. That expectation would continue in the event of an appeal being marked to the Sheriff and particularly so in the event that the Authority contemplates reaching agreement with an Appellant to concede that a prohibited procession instead to be allowed to go ahead and / or alternate wording for any condition(s) to be put in place.</p> <p>The Chief Constable is also content to indicate that Divisional Officers may be in a position to attend any such appeal proceedings as witnesses should it be felt relevant to lead evidence in connection with the Authority's decision.</p>	
Signature:	Rank: PS Ian Robertson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 2025-06-03T17:54:01.001+0000
To: customerservice@inverclyde.gov.uk
Subject: Orange walk

Subject: Objection to Proposed Orange Walk in Port Glasgow – 28 June 2025

To whom it may concern

I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposed Loyal Orange Lodge District 19 procession scheduled to take place in Port Glasgow on Saturday 28 June 2025, as advertised on the Council's website.

As a resident of Inverclyde, I am deeply concerned about the disruptive and divisive nature of such marches. While I acknowledge the legal right to peaceful assembly, Orange Walks in particular have historically been associated with tension, public disorder, and intimidation, especially in communities where many residents may not share the organisers' views or feel comfortable with the message these parades represent.

Port Glasgow is a diverse and inclusive community. The proposed route will not only cause unnecessary disruption to traffic and local businesses but may also heighten community tensions. The choice to pass key civic spaces like the cenotaph risks politicising areas intended for solemn reflection and unity.

Additionally, the return leg of the procession only extends the disruption for residents, many of whom may feel unsafe or unable to go about their daily lives while such an event takes place.

APPENDIX 2

Given these concerns, I urge Inverclyde Council to seriously consider the impact this march would have on community cohesion and public safety. I respectfully request that the application be declined.

Yours faithfully,

Kelly McGachy

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 2025-06-03T17:35:01.001+0000

To: customerservice@inverclyde.gov.uk

Subject: [No Subject] Subject: Objection to Proposed Orange Walk in Port Glasgow – 28 June 2025 To whom it may concern I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposed Loyal Orange Lodge District 19 procession scheduled to take place in Port Glasgow on Saturday 28 June 2025, as advertised on the Council's website. As a resident of Inverclyde, I am deeply concerned about the disruptive and divisive nature of such marches. While I acknowledge the legal right to peaceful assembly, Orange Walks in particular have historically been associated with tension, public disorder, and intimidation, especially in communities where many residents may not share the organisers' views or feel comfortable with the message these parades represent. Port Glasgow is a diverse and inclusive community. The proposed route will not only cause unnecessary disruption to traffic and local businesses but may also heighten community tensions. The choice to pass key civic spaces like the cenotaph risks politicising areas intended for solemn reflection and unity. Additionally, the return leg of the procession only extends the disruption for residents, many of whom may feel unsafe or unable to go about their daily lives while such an event takes place. Given these concerns, I urge Inverclyde Council to seriously consider the impact this march would have on community cohesion and public safety. I respectfully request that the application be declined. Yours faithfully, Jim Moore [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: Tommy Rodger [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 June 2025 11:27
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: FW: Port Glasgow Procession 28 June 2025

[REDACTED] we object to this procession due to its route through the Port Glasgow Town Centre, on a Saturday (28th June).

If the organisers were; at the end of their procession from Boglestone Avenue, were then to go from Shore Street directly onto Scarlow Street, and then on to the Cenotaph, avoiding the Town Centre, then we would not object. But not through the Town Centre.

As we have said on previous applications, the disruption caused would be intolerable to Town Centre trade, the local community going about their business, and to travellers commuting through the Town Centre, particularly on fair Saturday, on their holiday travels, is unacceptable.

Please communicate our suggested change of route to the Council Officers; to advise the organisers of our proposal for change of route.

Regards

Tommy Rodger

[REDACTED]

From: Thomas Mulgrew [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 May 2025 12:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: : Public Procession - 28 June 2025

[REDACTED]

First of all thank you for the email in regards to the orange order procession on 28/06/25 I feel I must raise a few issues regarding the outward route and it's passing of a roman Catholic place of worship which is St John the baptist on shore street Port Glasgow the start time for the parade is 9.30 am on Boglestone Ave which then proceeds to Cenotaph in Port glasgow town centre with a 9.30 departure this almost certainly means it will be passing St John the baptist just as 9.30am mass will be finishing which would then lead to the parishioners having to endure a anti catholic organisation march going past as they try to get to their cars which invariably will be parked across the street in the car park now in this day and age nobody should have to suffer this no matter their age religion or colour and I hope this point will be taken into consideration as you determine whether the parade can go ahead or not I don't know why the Parade deems it necessary to turn right past the Church at the bottom of Balfour street instead of going left towards Ardgowan St were past parades have finished I feel as these times which coincide with a mass in St John's are very deliberate I have no objection to the return parades route which thankfully is not routed to go past St Francis rc church which was the case in the past which I have previously objected to as this was most definitely timed to coincide with St Francis mass ending I hope you will take my points on board when making your determination.

Thomas Mulgrew
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 June 2025 11:28
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Public Procession - 28 June 2025

Classification : Official

[REDACTED]

In response to your email of 29/05 regarding the proposed procession in Port Glasgow by the Orange Order. These types of events have been happening in Port Glasgow all my life, and I'm seventy four now, I would have thought that the people of the Port have had enough of these events.

Personally speaking I couldn't care less what this organisation get up to, but when it effects my life and the lives of my family and friends, I have to speak out. As far as I'm aware the OO do not have a band of their own in Inverclyde, so normally import one from somewhere else in Scotland, and this time I believe from East Belfast, do we really need to import bigot's?

The OO can march all day long, but why don't they do it out Parklea or somewhere similar where it doesn't affect the everyday life of the citizens of the Port. I have said in my response previously that I don't think the timing of this event is acceptable, the procession will leave the Orange Hall at 9.30am to walk into the Port Town, morning Mass is celebrated at 9.30am on a Saturday morning, meaning that, the procession will pass St John the Baptist RC Church either just before Mass ends, or shortly after when the parishioners are exiting the Church. Most of the attendees are senior members of our community, and don't deserve to be subjected to this bigoted parade.

I will state again. No procession/parade should be allowed to pass a place of worship thirty minutes before or after a scheduled service. What if there happens to be a funeral in St John's that morning? Are the mourners to be subjected to an Orange Band playing sectarian tunes? I think that is totally unacceptable.

Kind regards,

Joe O'Rourke

APPENDIX 2



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 2025-06-03T17:44:01.001+0000

To: customerservice@inverclyde.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to Proposed Orange Walk in Port Glasgow – 28 June 2025 To whom it may concern I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposed Loyal Orange Lodge District 19 procession scheduled to take place in Port Glasgow on Saturday 28 June 2025, as advertised on the Council's website. As a resident of Inverclyde, I am deeply concerned about the disruptive and divisive nature of such marches. While I acknowledge the legal right to peaceful assembly, Orange Walks in particular have historically been associated with tension, public disorder, and intimidation, especially in communities where many residents may not share the organisers' views or feel comfortable with the message these parades represent. Port Glasgow is a diverse and inclusive community. The proposed route will not only cause unnecessary disruption to traffic and local businesses but may also heighten community tensions. The choice to pass key civic spaces like the cenotaph risks politicising areas intended for solemn reflection and unity. Additionally, the return leg of the procession only extends the disruption for residents, many of whom may feel unsafe or unable to go about their daily lives while such an event takes place. Given these concerns, I urge Inverclyde Council to seriously consider the impact this march would have on community cohesion and public safety. I respectfully request that the application be declined. Yours faithfully, Stephen McGachy

[[{80c4607d-261f-4f90-84d8-c8edf42d8661}]]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 2025-06-03T18:46:01.001+0000
To: customerservice@inverclyde.gov.uk
Subject: Subject: Objection to Proposed Orange Walk in Port Glasgow – 28 June 2025

To whom it may concern

I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposed Loyal Orange Lodge District 19 procession scheduled to take place in Port Glasgow on Saturday 28 June 2025, as advertised on the Council's website.

As a resident of Inverclyde, I am deeply concerned about the disruptive and divisive nature of such marches. While I acknowledge the legal right to peaceful assembly, Orange Walks in particular have historically been associated with tension, public disorder, and intimidation, especially in communities where many residents may not share the organisers' views or feel comfortable with the message these parades represent.

Port Glasgow is a diverse and inclusive community. The proposed route will not only cause unnecessary disruption to traffic and local businesses but may also heighten community tensions. The choice to pass key civic spaces like the cenotaph risks politicising areas intended for solemn reflection and unity.

Additionally, the return leg of the procession only extends the disruption for residents, many of whom may feel unsafe or unable to go about their daily lives while such an event takes place.

Given these concerns, I urge Inverclyde Council to seriously consider the impact this march would have on community cohesion and public safety. I respectfully request that the application be declined.

Yours faithfully,
Patrick Devlin

[Your Full Name]

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