
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	2 September 2025
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/55/25/HS
Contact Officer:	Hugh Scott, Service Manager Inclusive Communities	Contact No:	01475 715459
Subject:	Ward 6 Community Facilities Review		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 ☒ For Decision ☐ For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to undertake a detailed review of community provision within the Ward 6 area and report the findings back to a future meeting of the Committee.
- 1.3 As part of the Council's Delivering Differently programme, a strategic review of the leisure estate was undertaken in 2022. This review considered the Indoor Leisure Facilities, the Outdoor Leisure Facilities and Community Facilities. The report detailed the financial and operational challenges for community facilities due to increased costs and ongoing budget pressures. Several of these facilities exist within the Ward 6 area.
- 1.4 The report highlights the current condition and usage of various leisure facilities, along with planned maintenance and upgrades, many of which are impacted by financial constraints. These issues are compounded by the need to meet net zero targets and improve energy efficiency across public sector assets.
- 1.5 To ensure alignment with Inverclyde Council's wider strategic objectives and reflect current financial and operational realities, it is proposed that Council Officers carry out a review of community facilities in the Ward 6 area and make recommendations for the future operation of these facilities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee:

- i. requests officers undertake a review of community facility provision within the Ward 6 area and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The closure of several Community Facilities was considered as part of the Council's 2018-19 budget process. Details of the facilities affected were contained in a report to the January 2018 Education & Communities Committee. The savings proposals were based upon a review of community facility provision carried out by Max Associates in 2015.
- 3.2 A decision was taken in the March 2018 budget not to progress with the proposal to close community facilities at that time. However, a further review of community facilities within Ward 7 was undertaken during the remainder of 2018, which resulted in both rationalisation and development of community facilities in the area.
- 3.3 As part of Delivering Differently Programme, a strategic review of the leisure estate was undertaken in 2022 to assess the condition, suitability, and utilisation of Inverclyde Leisure's and Inverclyde Council property assets, identify backlog maintenance and lifecycle replacement liabilities, and evaluate the assets' alignment with service delivery and policy objectives.
- 3.4 A key driver of the review was to address the technical, financial, and operational challenges associated with transitioning to net zero emissions by 2045, necessitating detailed feasibility studies and planning for low/zero carbon heating solutions and energy efficiency improvements across the estate. Additionally, the review aimed to inform future investment priorities, optimise asset utilisation, and ensure compliance with legislative and policy frameworks, such as Scottish Government targets for decarbonisation and asset management standards.
- 3.5 The findings on community facilities indicate that while they are important for local engagement, they face challenges related to usage, operational costs, and future sustainability. The report acknowledges Inverclyde Leisure (IL) cannot continue to deliver all of the services on behalf of the Council within the current management fee it receives.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The CMT has given consideration as to the need to assess overall provision in the Ward 6 area strategically rather than considering the future retention of individual community facilities in isolation. In this regard, Members are asked to request officers to bring forward a detailed assessment of community provision within the Ward 6 area, as part of overarching leisure estate strategic planning, and report back to a future Committee.
- 4.2 This review will follow the precedent set by the Ward 7 community facilities assessment, ensuring a consistent approach to strategic asset planning that aligns with the methodology and priorities outlined in the Inverclyde Leisure estate review.

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

Any financial implications as a result of the review will be considered as part of the 2026/28 budget process.

One off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

5.3 Legal/Risk

Any funding changes and financial implications will be actioned in line with the funding agreement.

5.4 Human Resources

There are HR implications for IL associated with any potential reduction in IL facilities.

5.5 Strategic

IL is a significant partner to achieving the aims of the Council in respect of the delivery of its Corporate Plan and also the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

5.6 **Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People**

The Council will be required to undertake an Equalities Impact Assessment as part of any proposed changes to the Community Facilities Estate.

(a) Equalities

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

X	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required as part of any reduction in service, a copy of which will be made available on the Council’s website: https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/equality-impact-assessments
	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(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?

X	YES – A written statement showing how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed as part of the wider IL strategic asset review.
	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

(c) Children and Young People

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

X	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA will be required if services are reduced.
	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.

5.7 **Environmental/Sustainability**

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

Maintaining all facilities which currently exist in the leisure estate will have significant implications for the Council’s ability to meet the requirements for Net Zero.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

X	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment has been undertaken as part of the wider IL strategic asset review.
	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consulted with CMT and property services

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Community Facilities Service Review Education & Communities Committee 23 Jan 2018
EDUCOM13/18/MM

7.2 Ward 7 Community Facilities Review Education & Communities Committee 4 Sep 2018
EDUCOM/84/2018/HS

7.3 Inverclyde Leisure Strategic Asset Review and 2023/25 Funding Shortfall Education & Communities Committee 1 Nov 2022 EDUCOM/59/22/RB

7.4 Inverclyde Leisure Strategic Asset Review