SUBMISSION FROM INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

What does regeneration mean in your area?

1. Within Inverclyde, regeneration means a co-ordinated, physical, social and environmental approach. Importantly, regeneration also means partnership working with strong community involvement.

2. Inverclyde Council recognises that regeneration is broader than just physical regeneration. Place-based approaches need to support people-based approaches with one complementing the other. Further, the importance of sustainable regeneration over time to the social, economic and environmental foundation of local communities is also recognised, thereby providing a legacy.

3. Inverclyde continues to have many disadvantaged areas where deep rooted social problems remain. These require to be tackled holistically focusing on a range of inter-related outcomes with funds and actions directed through local services to bring improvements in employment, health, education and the environment. The aim is to achieve benefits from this synergy where we can gain several advantages as a result of one intervention. It is our opinion that the focus of regeneration and associated funding must continue to be on deprived communities and reversing decline.

4. Examples of projects that worked well are provided at point 5.

The regeneration strategy, resources and funding.

5. Inverclyde Council has difficulty in seeing how JESSICA Urban Development Fund can successfully be applied in disadvantaged areas where ‘the market’ capacity is very weak.

6. Many disadvantaged areas have been supported by a growing public sector and by regeneration funding through, for example, the Town Centre Regeneration Fund.

7. Regeneration funding has traditionally come from Europe and Inverclyde has benefited from European Structural Funds however, the new 2014-2020 European Structural Funds programme will have significantly less funds available. In addition, the ability of local authorities to identify match funding will become more challenging. As a result, our disadvantaged areas will be hardest hit and will result in wider spatial inequalities. The use of structural funds as a means of resourcing aspects of the Scottish Government’s Regeneration Strategy should be explored in the context of declining capital budgets.

8. It is often easier to make the case for funds where the outcomes are certain but added to that is the difficulty of knowing whether our interventions are making a difference, particularly when the benefits are realised over time. Nevertheless, mainstream policies and resource allocations need to take account of locally based policies and programmes (as outlined in Point 4).
9. Riverside Inverclyde, the Urban Regeneration Company has contributed to the local regeneration agenda and receives funding from Scottish Government, Inverclyde Council and Scottish Enterprise. Inverclyde Council wish to see a continuation of regeneration funding for local areas of need in order to reduce disadvantage and inequalities.

10. Appropriate Scottish Government support is required around the Planning system allowing for a flexible approach to changing economic circumstances to allow for new business opportunities to be realised. Further, Scottish Government support is also required in terms of how the public sector is resourced to support community based organisations to contribute to the regeneration agenda. There is a need for better synergy between national policies, programmes, funding and local initiatives.

**Regeneration, Equalities and Preventative Spending**

11. The idea of preventative investment is now widely accepted however, the recession and austerity measures will inevitably increase inequalities.

12. Signs of economic growth have so far not been realised therefore alternative approaches have to be considered.

13. Inverclyde Council supports the aim to shift the balance from ‘curing and repairing’ towards preventing harm across the economy, society and the environment. By doing so, this should make for more efficient use of public resources.

14. The Christie Commission recommends more spend on prevention and a real focus towards integration, decentralisation and localism. We are aware that we need to co-operate better, intervene earlier and improve outcomes. In the context of employability, for example, there is a necessity to shift towards prevention and early intervention. ‘Short termism’ is a barrier to collaborative working and focussing on preventative spend. Budgets are set in the shorter term, and political administrations are short term in comparison to the time it will take to make a difference and evidence that difference, as a result of early intervention. Focussing on outcomes is helping to change this short term outlook, but everyone has to agree that change will not happen in the short term, yet still support projects, the results from which might be fully realised in a different electoral term.

15. The Scottish Government should continue to plan and prioritise preventative spend to address the challenges. Economic strategies are required in order to meet social objectives and good preventative measures can bring broad benefits. Inequality is bad for the economy as it impacts on tax contributions and entrepreneurialism. Regeneration policy therefore can assist with the delivery of the equalities agenda by investing in jobs growth and encouraging people to develop their full potential giving them access to the labour market. This will help reduce socio-economic inequalities such as income, poverty, crime, ill-health.

**Regeneration and Sustainable Development**
16. Regeneration is a complex process and it can be difficult to demonstrate how effective our interventions have been, particularly when the benefits of regeneration may take place over long periods of time. However, we can demonstrate that Inverclyde Council has formed robust partnerships with other public sector organisations and the third sector resulting in a very positive employability programme. The key impediment to future delivery of this successful programme is the uncertainty around the availability of European funding and Council match-funding.

17. In addition, we have supported a range of local community and voluntary groups to build their capacity so that they are in a strong position to tender for contracts and deliver projects that contribute to the regeneration agenda – Community Engagement, Employability, Health Inequalities and Tackling Addictions.

18. A major challenge to stimulating economic development is the fact that public sector job cuts will have a disproportionate impact on Inverclyde, an area which is particularly dependent on this sector. Inverclyde is forecast to have the highest estimated public sector job losses by 2016 as a proportion of our overall employment base. The local economy will undoubtedly suffer from lost income making it difficult to sustain businesses.

19. The removal of unnecessary planning barriers to business development is essential to support economic development. The Inverclyde Construction Forum assists members to secure new contracts. This is key to building the capacity of local businesses as well as providing employment opportunities thereby supporting the regeneration agenda.

20. Our adopted Local Plan provides a vision of how Inverclyde should develop, contains policies and proposals which guide development to the most appropriate locations and supplies the framework upon which all planning applications are determined. The Plan promotes the regeneration and re-use of previously developed land, while taking account of the capacity of existing infrastructure.

21. The Proposed Plan will continue to promote regeneration and the re-use of previously developed land, as well as include the objectives of contributing to sustainable development and limiting greenhouse gas emissions by promoting a pattern of development and design which, amongst other things, reduces the need to travel and encourages travel by public transport.

Community Led Regeneration and CPPs

22. To maximise the impact on the ground, partnership working with strong community involvement (through the CPPs) is necessary to consider new, sustainable ways of maximising resources to fund regeneration. Working at the local level enables Inverclyde Council to strengthen our communities, to help build their social capital and their capacity to respond to local challenges.
23. We recognise that many of these groups have the willingness and passion to undertake projects nevertheless it is likely they will continue to require support to help them to do so.

24. Community Planning Partnerships generally have demonstrated, through European Employability initiatives that they are a successful model for delivering local regeneration activities and this strong partnership approach will continue to be encouraged within Inverclyde.

25. SOAs allow CPPs to achieve national priorities taking account of local circumstances and priorities. The majority of Scotland’s social problems are considerably more acute in a small number of areas. Each neighbourhood faces its own unique challenges, often requiring a package of targeted interventions. Inverclyde Council supports place-based targeted interventions that are co-ordinated through the CPP. As a local authority, we cannot tackle regeneration alone and we recognise that an effective, co-ordinated partnership approach is the only way to address such issues. Moreover, regeneration alone cannot address the issues of poverty and inequality.

26. The following are successful examples of how our SOA seeks to achieve regeneration under the Economic Regeneration and Employability themes.

**Economic Regeneration Case Study: Community Benefit Clauses**

27. To complement physical investment projects, likely to cost around £1bn in the next ten years, public sector agencies in Inverclyde including Inverclyde Council, River Clyde Homes and Riverside Inverclyde have developed community benefit clauses for inclusion in all their contracts. The rationale for creating these clauses is to ensure local people benefit from this level of investment in their community and they have been designed to ensure that employment opportunities are created on all appropriate capital projects of at least three months’ duration.

28. A second strand of this project is the inclusion of goodwill clauses in contracts which encourage the provision of opportunities for local sub-contractors, reflecting the fact that local companies are often too small to tender successfully for multi-million pound projects but ensuring that they may still benefit from major investment in the area.

**Background**

29. This project was established in recognition that effective regeneration of an area is multi-faceted. Previous attempts to drive economic development have been perceived as weak as they have focused on one specific aspect of this agenda and have subsequently failed to deliver sustainable change.

30. The project recognises the imperative to tackle the high levels of unemployment in Inverclyde and the low skills base of some residents.
31. It also acknowledges that local people should benefit from physical investment in their area in both the immediate and longer term and has facilitated the creation of training, apprenticeships and work experience opportunities.

32. Through effective partnership working agencies have been alerted early on in the process, on all relevant tenders, of the opportunities which are likely to arise and have been in a position to provide some basic training and skills to allow local people to compete for these.

33. Similarly local companies and public sector partners have formed Inverclyde Construction Forum (ICF) which runs seminars, training sessions and quarterly business meetings for its members. ICF seeks to increase the competitiveness of its membership, encourage company development and enhance members’ potential in winning new contracts. The activities of this forum contribute to the Community Plan aim of creating an Inverclyde which has “a thriving business community, with better support, and a good small to medium enterprise start up and sustainability rate”.

34. This project contributes to Inverclyde’s SOA outcome 3 – the area’s economic regeneration is secured; and to the Community Plan aspiration that “everyone who is able to work can access job opportunities, developing skills to progress while in work, and support is available for those furthest from the labour market”.

35. A by-product of providing these opportunities is a greater awareness amongst local people of the work being undertaken by the public sector to transform the area and a greater understanding of what is involved in developing sustainable communities.

Results / Impact

36. Community Benefits Clauses since 2009 have created the following opportunities locally all of which have been accessed by Inverclyde residents:

- 6 apprentices appointed to Clyde View contract for new office accommodation.
- 5 posts associated with roads contract at James Watt Dock.
- 5 posts associated with Town Centre Regeneration contracts.
- 4 posts associated with the nursery build at Riverside Business Park
- Further posts currently in negotiation for the Arts Guild Theatre build at The Harbours
- 15 apprentices and 95 skilled / unskilled posts with 1000 hours work experience on new schools contracts being delivered by Inverclyde Council.
- 14 apprentices and 57 skilled / unskilled posts with River Clyde Homes as part of the process of new build housing and refurbishments.

Employability Case Study: Comet Rebuilt

37. Executive Summary

- This ship building project was a refurbishment of the PS Comet.
- Agencies from the public, private and voluntary sectors worked in partnership.
• Future Jobs Fund participants worked on the project learning a range of skills.
• Considerable community engagement activity supported the Project.
• The refurbished PS Comet was restored to Port Glasgow Town Centre in June 2011.

Background

38. The PS Comet is a vital part of Port Glasgow’s rich ship building heritage, a replica of which has been sited in Port Glasgow Town Centre since 1962. However, despite some interim repairs, by 2010 the replica was in a poor condition and needed a complete refurbishment. Recognising the importance of the vessel, Inverclyde Council awarded £180,000 from the Common Good Fund to ensure the improvements were made.

39. It was only with the emergence of the Future Jobs Fund programme that the project came to fruition. Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde Community Development Trust secured the support of Fergusons Shipyard and on 14 February 2010 the boat was lifted and transported to the yard to commence the refurbishment.

40. With the support of Jobcentre Plus, FJF participants were identified for the available jobs and in the lifetime of the project a total of 14 young people worked on the Project, learning traditional construction and boat-building skills. Some have gone on to obtain positive outcomes including four moving into jobs and one has obtained a full time apprenticeship.

Results / Impact

41. There were additional community benefits arising from the Comet Rebuilt Project which commenced with a community arts project for Port Glasgow Primary Schools who prepared images which were fixed around the Comet site whilst it was being refurbished.

• An additional FJF worker had the role of filming all of associated works and has made a film “History of the Comet” – which was premiered in September 2011 at Port Glasgow Town Hall.
• Fergusons Shipyard participated in Doors Open Day 2010 and a total of 270 people visited the yard to see progress on the refurbishment.
• Staff from the Trust visited every school in Port Glasgow to deliver a session for the pupils on the history of the Comet and the rich heritage of the area. Follow up visits on site were arranged with every school sending a delegation to witness the work being completed.

42. On 5th June 2011, the newly refurbished Comet was returned to her base in Port Glasgow Town Centre, as scheduled. The improvements are notable and there has been a considerable legacy not just for the vessel but for all those who worked on her. A vital and long lasting element has been the development of strong partnership working, with a range of agencies from the private, public and voluntary sector working together to engage the local community and reinstate a considerable asset for the town of Port Glasgow.
Regeneration and Climate Change Targets

43. An example of how regeneration is assisting towards climate change targets is the redevelopment of our school estate. The Council’s School Estate Management Plan is central to the regeneration of the Inverclyde area and sets out the proposals to meet the educational needs of our children, young people and the wider community.

44. The Council’s vision for the community is one which calls for the development of a knowledge-based culture founded on key industries with a strong infrastructure of transport, communications and public services. The vision also calls for the development of stable, sustainable communities in which people choose to live and work.

45. The Council seeks to provide education services of the highest quality to meet the needs of the community. Schools and school accommodation also have a wider role in providing resources not only for pupils but also to the broader community to support lifelong learning, leisure and community services.

46. The Council developed a School Estate Management Plan that reflects the Government’s long term strategy for school buildings, considers the impact on the school environment of future learning and teaching needs and meets the criteria set out for Scottish Government support. The plans that have been developed will result in the biggest investment in educational provision in Inverclyde in the past 100 years.

47. To embed low carbon criteria in the specifications, the Carbon Trust worked alongside the Council as it went through the process of procuring four new schools as part of the Council’s Public Private Partnership (PPP) project. The Carbon Trust presented to the bidders on behalf of the Council, ensuring they thoroughly understood the low carbon aspects of the brief.

48. Key elements included making sure the buildings would be well insulated and airtight, so they would lose as little amount of heat as possible and have very high levels of natural daylight, minimising the need for artificial light.

49. Once bids had been received, the Carbon Trust worked closely with the Council in evaluating their carbon credentials and ensured the contract imposed ongoing energy performance obligations on the successful bidder.

50. Key learnings from the process were used to inform the design specifications of the Port Glasgow Shared Campus project which is now on site.

51. The Council’s Corporate Social Responsibility Working Group looks at subjects such as community benefits, setting aside contracts for the third sector and the environmental aspects of corporate social responsibility. A review of the Council’s tender work plan is also underway with the aim of having clauses embedded within contracts that will deal with environmental issues. Whilst such work does not contribute to emissions under the direct control of the Council, it will support the reduction of the Council’s indirect emissions, for example, those...
by suppliers and contractors appointed by the local authority to provide goods and services.

52. I trust the above information will help inform your scrutiny of the Draft Budget. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stephen McCabe
Leader of Inverclyde Council
1 October 2912