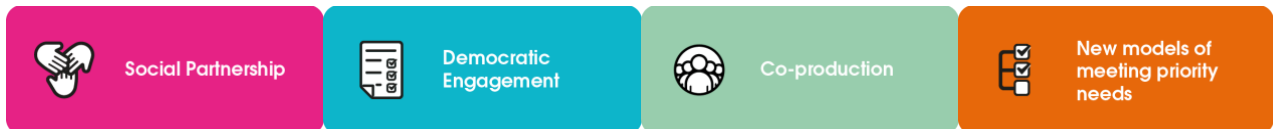




COMMUNITY



Inverclyde Council

Community Councils in Inverclyde

Introduction

Community Councils (CCs) are groups of people who give time to, and have an interest in, the well-being of their community. Introduced by The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, their main purposes are to:

- consult and represent the local community;
- make known to the Council and other public bodies the views of those in the community; and
- take such action it feels is appropriate in the interests of the community.

CCs are consulted on planning applications in their areas and are kept informed about licensing applications. They are also frequently consulted on how local services are delivered and other issues affecting their localities. In Inverclyde, they operate under the *Scheme for the Establishment of CCs in Inverclyde*, which covers a variety of matters including the CC areas; who can be a Community Councillor; how many and what types of CC there can be; and the roles and responsibilities of Community Councillors. It also covers the operation of CCs, dealing with meetings, accounts, and Elections.

Support is available for CCs in order for them to effectively engage and consult with, and be a fully representative voice for, the communities they represent; support includes:

- a comprehensive training package;
- support to Office Bearers;
- preparing for public meetings;

- liaising with Council bodies;
- support and guidance to access match funding;
- development of skills to work in partnership with a range of agencies and groups; and
- support to develop project proposals (for example, a new play park).

Review process

The Council must from time to time review the Scheme and, if it is considered necessary, may amend or replace it. On 1 December 2022, the Council started such a Review which considered both the current CC areas and the terms of the Scheme itself which, amongst other things, contains provisions on:

- maximum and minimum memberships;
- co-option and limits on co-option;
- minimum meeting requirements;
- Elections; and
- model Standing Orders and Constitution.

The Consultation process comprised three main parts. Firstly, the Council sought the views and representations of the community on the CC areas and the composition of the CCs under the Scheme in force at that time (the 2011 Scheme). We then sought views and representations on the terms of a Draft Scheme, incorporating proposed new CC areas. During the third part of the Consultation, the views and representations of the community were invited on a proposed Amended Scheme, which included a map of proposed CC areas based on the CC areas under the 2011 Scheme.

Inverclyde Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) Team arranged a facilitated workshop on 16 November 2022 with the current CC members. The workshop provided feedback and training to establish local training needs, support and assistance to help create a pathway for new CC members. A digital consultation was completed on 28 November 2022 which provided a baseline of the format of meetings in the future, recruitment of new members and support to ensure annual accounts are verified to allow the release of grants.

Council Officers also took account of the Scottish Government's Good Practice Guide <https://bit.ly/3Y36z90> which includes details of a Model Scheme on which the previous Inverclyde Scheme, and a number of other Councils' Schemes, are based.

The 2023 Scheme and financial support for CCs

At a special meeting on 7 December 2023, the Council noted the outcome of the Third Consultation and amended the Scheme by adopting the proposals consulted on as the current Scheme (the 2023 Scheme).

The Council approves a budget annually for the funding of Community Councils. The Council meets various initial costs from this budget, such as public liability insurance arranged for the CCs; and Election costs (in years where the regular four yearly Elections for CCs are held).

The remaining budget is then allocated to the provision of the CC Grant. The CC Grant comprises two parts: the Administrative Grant (a sum of £500 per CC); and the Project Grant (the remaining

grant budget for that year split amongst the CC areas). CCs are expected use their Administrative Grant for the purpose of meeting reasonable and appropriate operational and administration costs. Additionally, CCs may be able to apply for other forms of grant funding, both from Inverclyde Council and from other sources.

Delivering strategic priorities

The Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023/33 encompasses The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, while the Inverclyde CLD Three Year Plan has Community Empowerment as a key strategic priority. Supporting and engaging with CCs is therefore key to achieving this priority.

Current CC

The Council currently has 11 CCs. The CLD Team has engaged with all established CCs, with offers of support and training and attendance at CC meetings. Some CCs receive assistance with general operations and functioning, while others may benefit from more specialised support, such as guidance on office bearer roles and responsibilities. By offering customised support, we aim to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of each CC, ultimately benefiting the communities they serve.

For further information contact:

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