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**To: Joint Committee**

**On: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

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**Report by: Head of Regeneration & Planning, Inverclyde Council**

**Head of Housing, Renfrewshire Council**

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**Heading: Future Management Arrangements Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of the Joint Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020, following decisions made by the constituent Councils it was agreed to dissolve the Park Authority with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
  - 1.2 The purpose of this report is to set out the ongoing management arrangements for the individual elements of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and how Renfrewshire Council and Inverclyde Council will maintain continuity of operations.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee note the ongoing operational and strategic management arrangements for individual elements of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and the intention to establish a Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Liaison Group.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Authority Joint Committee is governed by a Minute of Agreement most recently agreed in 2004. On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020, North Ayrshire Council gave notice of withdrawal from the MoA and following consideration by the remaining Councils it was concluded that it was appropriate to terminate this Minute of Agreement and for the Park Authority to be dissolved.

- 3.2 Renfrewshire Council's Environment and Infrastructure Board held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and Inverclyde Council's Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 agreed the termination of the MoA and dissolution of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Joint Committee from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- 3.3 Following the dissolution of the Joint Committee, each local authority will make investment and operational decisions separately regarding the parts of the Regional Park lying within their respective boundaries.
- 3.4 These arrangements will not affect the designation of Clyde Muirshiel as a Regional Park or any of the environmental designations that exist across the park area.

#### **4 Future Management Arrangements**

- 4.1 On February 12<sup>th</sup> 2020, North Ayrshire Council agreed to serve notice of its withdrawal from the Joint Committee and in doing so delegated oversight and governance of the Park to its cabinet and the operational functions to the Executive Director of Communities.
- 4.2 This recognised that while the scenic and wildlife significance of the Park area was a local and regional asset, North Ayrshire Council's participation in the governance of the park and the determination of its activities was severely limited due to the absence of facilities within the park.
- 4.3 The following section sets out how Renfrewshire and Inverclyde will manage their elements of the Park

#### **Renfrewshire Council**

- 4.4 The governance of the Park within Renfrewshire Council will, for the time being, continue to be provided by the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Board. Park Staff, operational activity and financial control will be managed through the Environment & Infrastructure Service.
- 4.5 A lead officer will be identified in the Environment & Infrastructure Service to provide a contact for the Park Coordinator who will continue to manage the day to day activities of the Park within the context of the current Park Strategy.
- 4.6 An Officer Working Group will be established within Renfrewshire Council with representatives from a range of Services including Environment & Infrastructure and Economy & Development to look at the opportunities that exist in relation to maximising the tourism potential of the park, enhancing the marketing of park facilities and activities, managing the assets of the Park and identifying Business Development Opportunities as well as the potential for greater community and business engagement in park activities and services.

## **Inverclyde Council**

- 4.7 Oversight of the Park within Inverclyde Council will be provided by the Environment and Regeneration Committee. Park staff, operational activity and financial control will be managed within the Environment and Regeneration Directorate with lead responsibility falling on the Head of Regeneration and Planning.
- 4.8 An Officer Group, chaired by the Interim Service Director – Environment and Economic Recovery, will be established within Inverclyde Council with representatives from a range of Services including Tourism and Marketing, Environmental Services, and Regeneration and Planning to look at the opportunities that exist in relation to maximising the tourism potential of the park, enhancing the marketing of park facilities and activities, managing the assets of the Park and identifying Business Development Opportunities as well as the potential for greater community and business engagement in park activities and services.

## **Joint Working**

- 4.9 An officer liaison group will be established by the Head of Operation and Infrastructure (RC), along with the Head of Regeneration and Planning (IC) with appropriate nominated officers to ensure that opportunities from a cross boundary perspective in the Park are maximised.
- 4.10 It is proposed that a Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Liaison Group will be established to guide the strategic direction of the park supported by Senior Officers from the Councils as well as the Park which will meet on a twice yearly basis with two elected members from each of the Local Authorities nominated by their respective Councils

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 Whilst the Member Authorities have decided that management of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park should rest with the constituent Councils it is stressed that management and operations across the Regional Park will be delivered in full cooperation and for the benefit of the local population as well as the visitors who come to enjoy the Park's assets, activities and beauty.
- 5.2 As such liaison will continue to ensure the protection and enhancement of the Regional Park's natural environment, while opportunities for ongoing community involvement in park activities will be encouraged.
- 5.3 In addition opportunities to generate income by providing services under service level agreements will continue to be investigated to support the ongoing provision and development of activities within the Regional Park.
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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – Ongoing financial management of the park activities and operations will sit with the constituent Councils.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – A formal consultation process is ongoing regarding the staff who will transfer to Inverclyde Council and remain with Renfrewshire.
3. **Legal** – The functions delegated to the Park Authority will revert to the relevant Councils
4. **Property/Assets** – the properties operated by the Park Authority will remain vested with the Council in whose area they are located, who will also continue to manage and maintain these assets.
5. **Information Technology** – None
6. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report
7. **Health & Safety** – None
8. **Procurement** – None
9. **Risk** – None
10. **Privacy Impact** – None
11. **Cosla Policy Position** – None

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