

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

22 SEPTEMBER 2011

## PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CLYDE COASTGUARD CENTRE

### Report by the Chief Executive

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Council of a request from Inverclyde Council to support the campaign to oppose the proposed closure of the Clyde Coastguard Centre at Greenock.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed closure of the Clyde Coastguard Centre is set out in the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) consultation on the modernisation of the Coastguard service across the UK. The closing date for responses to the second stage consultation is 6 October 2011 and Inverclyde Council, at its meeting on 18 August 2011, resolved to seek the support of neighbouring Councils to its opposition to the plans.
- 2.2 In addition to the closure of the Clyde Coastguard Centre, the proposals would also see the closure of the facility on the Forth but would see the retention of centres at Aberdeen, Shetland and Stornoway.
- 2.3 Inverclyde Council's campaign considers that the loss of this service would negatively impact on the resilience of community safety in coastal communities and the surrounding areas from Fort William to Stranraer, including many islands off the West Coast of Scotland. It is considered that retention of the Clyde Coastguard Centre would strengthen and enhance the quality of service provided by the MCA for the Clyde, West of Scotland and North Atlantic.
- 2.4 The campaign to save the Clyde Centre is being supported by the following Council's:
- Argyll and Bute
  - Dumfries and Galloway
  - East Dumbartonshire
  - East Renfrewshire
  - North Ayrshire
  - Renfrewshire
  - South Ayrshire, and
  - West Dumbartonshire

- 2.5 On 16 September 2011, representatives from each of these Councils, along with a number of MPs, MSPs and the Coastguard Trades Unions, endorsed a plan of joint action to support the campaign against closure, including the signing of a concordat by each of the supporting Councils.
- 2.6 A public rally organised by the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union has been arranged for Saturday 24 September 2011 when the concordat will be launched.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council considers the request from Inverclyde Council to support the campaign to save the Clyde Coastguard Centre and, if Council agrees to support the campaign, to authorise the Chief Executive to sign the concordat agreement on behalf of the Council.

Fiona Lees  
**Chief Executive**  
**20 September 2011**

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Letter dated 24 August 2011 from the Chief Executive of Inverclyde Council, and
2. Email dated 16 September 2011 from Inverclyde Council.

Any person wishing further information should contact Iain Tough, Corporate Business Manager, Chief Executive's Office (Telephone 01563 576575)

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive**