



Local College Provision

GREENOCK

FIGHTING FOR A FUTURE

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

At merger, Greenock had near enough the same number of students as Paisley and much more than Clydebank ...
4 or 5 years into merger, Greenock has the least number of students than any other campus, much less!
It's not right, downright strange and quite obvious to everyone.

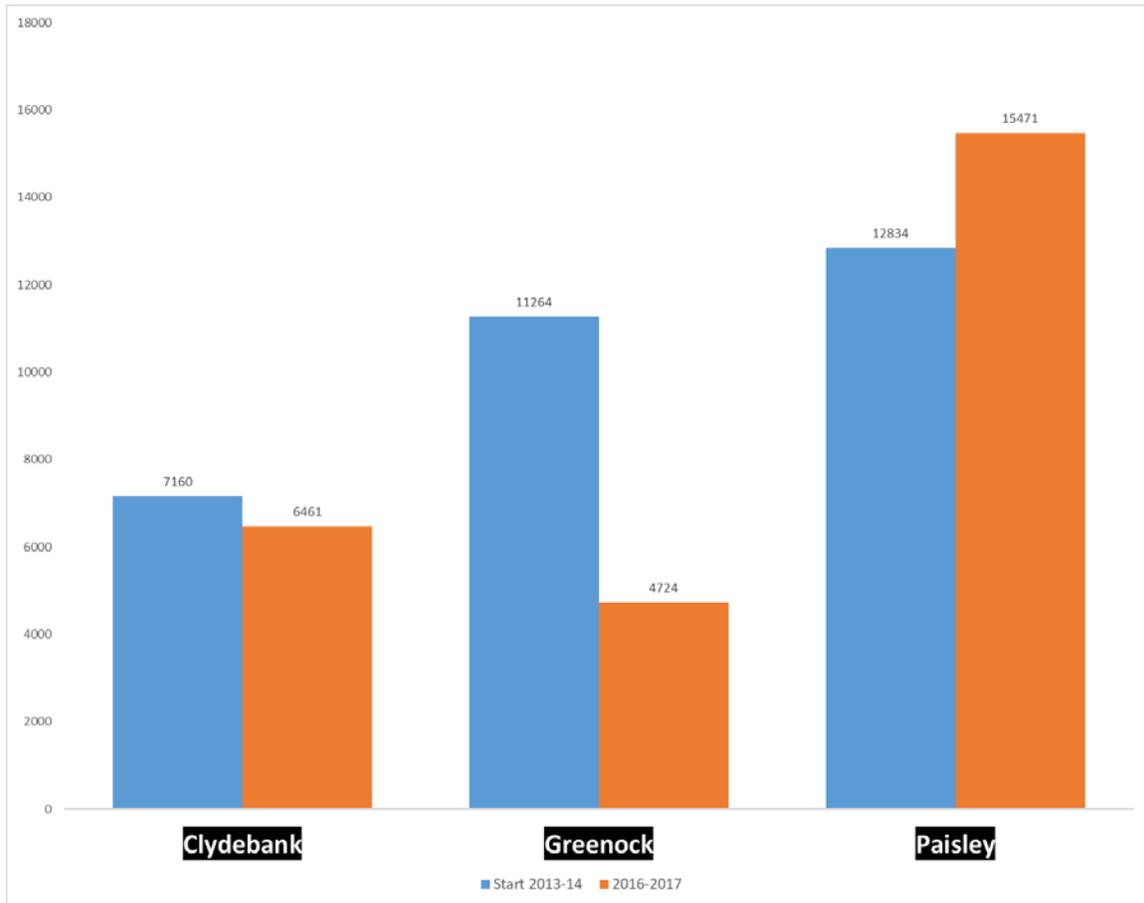
The merger has aggressively attacked local college provision for Greenock, the fight is long overdue.

Contents

Total Enrolments for first 4 years of merger	2
Total Enrolment Change (percentage).....	3
Full time enrolment change.....	4
Part time Student enrolment change	5
The Raw Data	6
More facts and figures	8
Demographics	9
Deprivation	9
Voluntary Severance and Natural Redundancies	10
Estates and management plan to relocate	10
Ideas, discussion points and action.....	12
In summary of proposed actions	14

Total Enrolments for first 4 years of merger

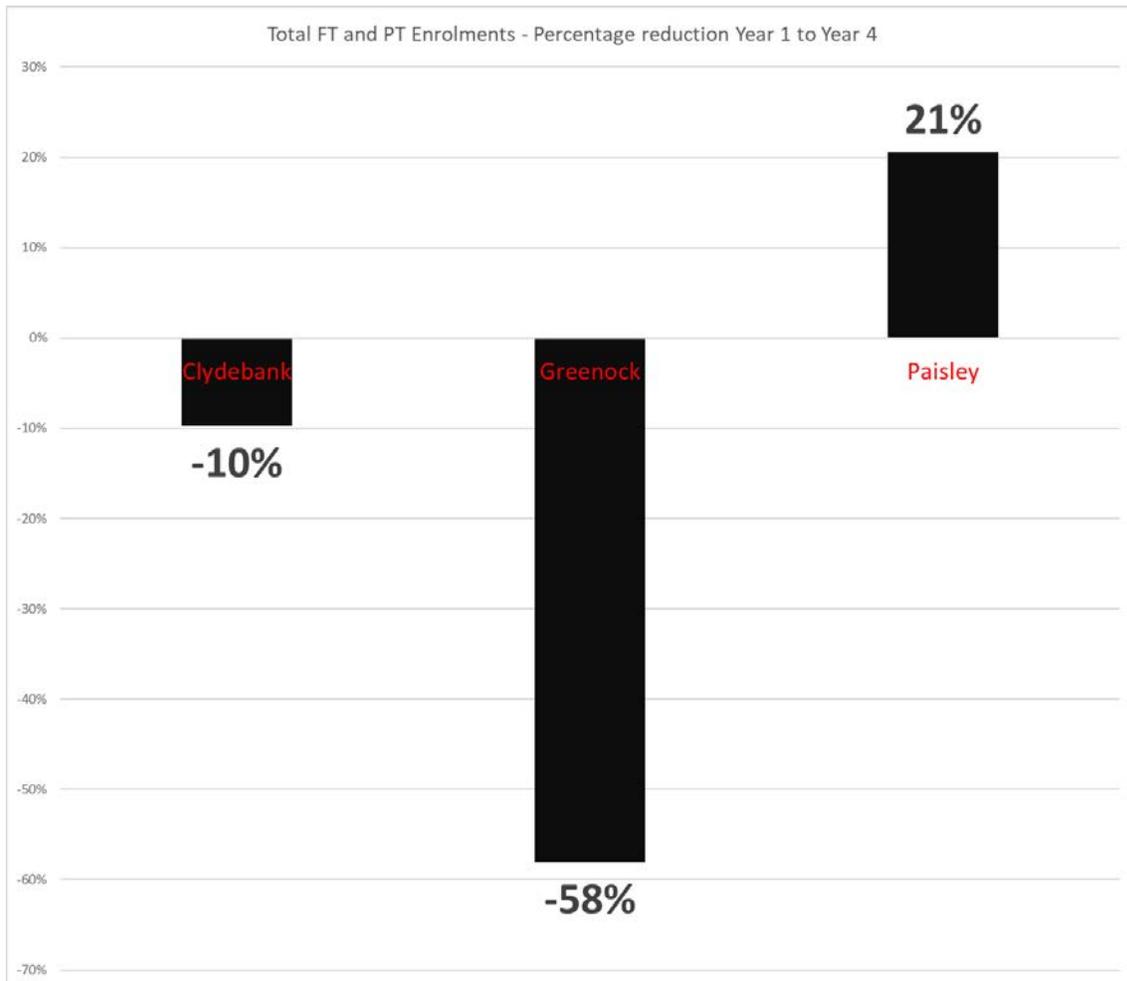
The following illustrates the starting position of total enrolments for each campus at merger, in order of Clydebank then Greenock then Paisley compared to each campus total enrolments after 4 years of merger.



- Clydebank shows a small reduction
- Greenock went into the merger as near enough comparable to Paisley as the largest campus for total enrolments for year 1
- Greenock quite evidently reduced in size by a considerable amount during the first 4 years of merger to now be the smallest campus by far
- Paisley has increased the amount of total enrolments and has benefited from the merger during the first 4 years

TOTAL ENROLMENT CHANGE (PERCENTAGE)

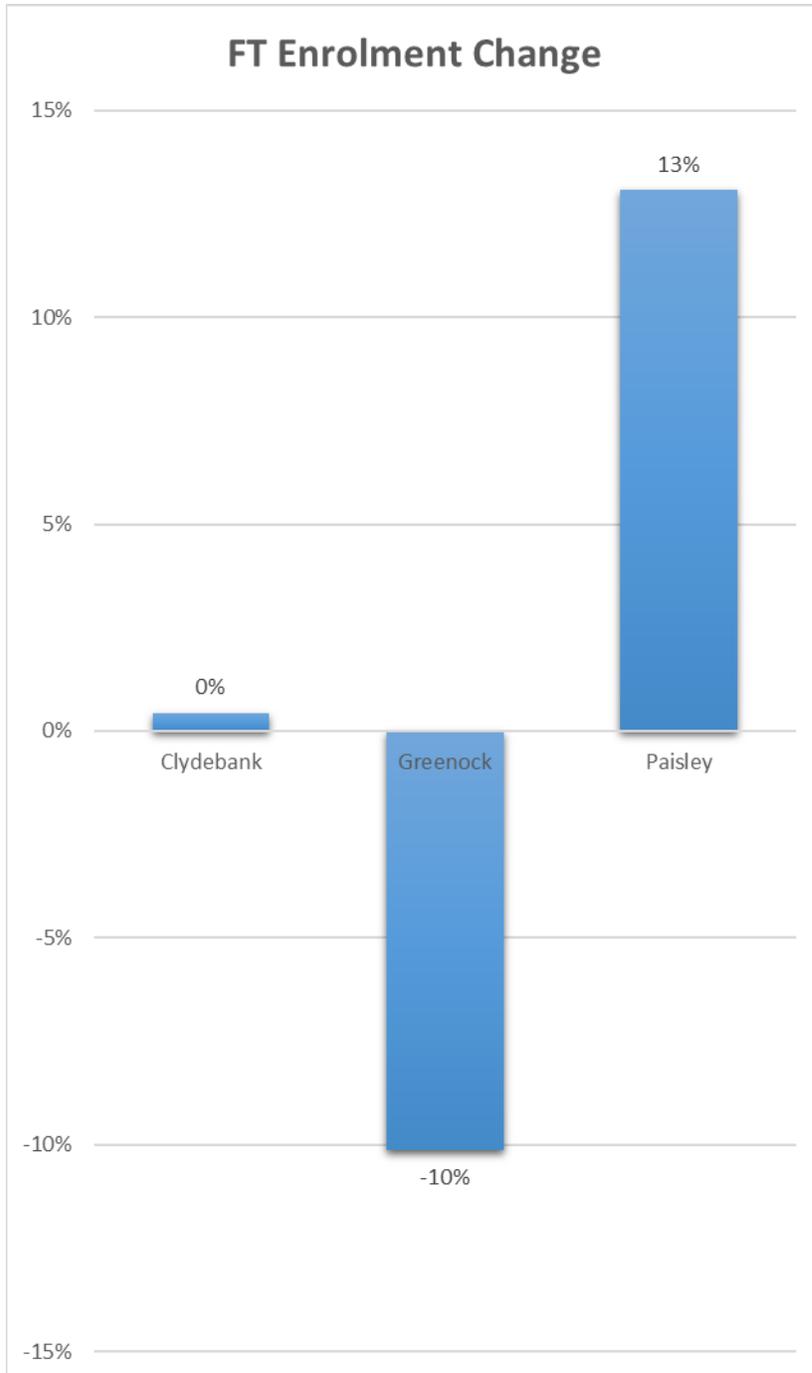
Working on the total enrolment figures from the previous section (full time and part time), the percentage reduction in total enrolments for Greenock during the first 4 years of merger is 58%



- Paisley showing an increase of total enrolments by 21%
- Greenock has a shocking 58% reduction in total enrolments
- In year 1 of merger, Greenock had a total enrolment count of 11,264 that reduced to only 4,724 in year 4 of merger
- Paisley actually increased from 12,834 in year 1 of merger to a total of 15,471

FULL TIME ENROLMENT CHANGE

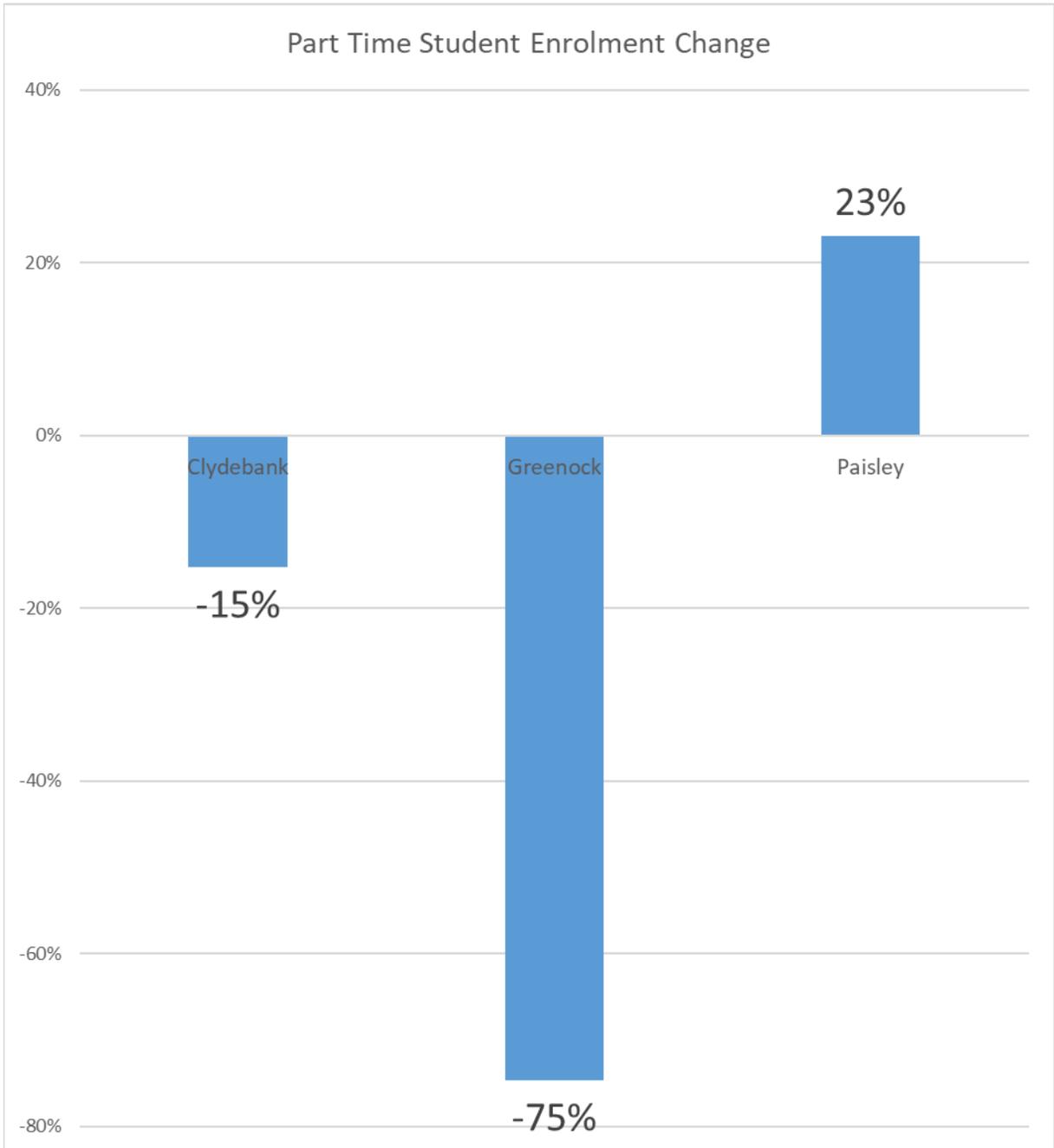
Whilst Clydebank has remained unchanged, Paisley increased FT Enrolments between year 1 of merger to year 4 of merger by 13%



- Possibly a correlation between Paisley increase and Greenock decrease?

PART TIME STUDENT ENROLMENT CHANGE

Clydebank part time student enrolment count reduced by 15% but Greenock has suffered a massive reduction of 75% between year 1 and year 4 for merger. Paisley count incredibly increased!



- A shocking reduction of 75% for Greenock

THE RAW DATA

Figures supplied by senior management. Year 5 would be subject to adjustment, only the first 4 years of merger have been used within these calculations to view trends.

Raw Data			Clydebank	Greenock	Paisley	Total
Applications for FT courses	2013-14					
	2014-15		10155	10495	14482	35132
	2015-16		10947	9549	14734	35230
	2016-17		9487	7416	13519	30422
Enrolments	2013-14	FT	2506	2893	3247	8646
		PT	4654	8371	9587	22612
	Total	7160	11264	12834	31258	
	2014-15	FT	2369	3233	3341	8943
		PT	3761	2328	14769	20858
	Total	6130	5561	18110	29801	
	2015-16	FT	2334	2767	3593	8694
		PT	4220	1892	13246	19358
	Total	6554	4659	16839	28052	
	2016-17	FT	2517	2600	3672	8789
PT		3944	2124	11799	17867	
Total	6461	4724	15471	26656		

Part Time Enrolments			
	Clydebank	Greenock	Paisley
Start 2013-14	4654	8371	9587
2016-2017	3944	2124	11799
Change	-710	-6247	2212
Change over years	-15%	-75%	23%
Full Time Enrolments			
	Clydebank	Greenock	Paisley
Start 2013-14	2506	2893	3247
2016-2017	2517	2600	3672
Change	11	-293	425
Change over years	0%	-10%	13%

Full Time Applications			
	Clydebank	Greenock	Paisley
Start 2014-15	10155	10495	14482
2016-2017	9487	7416	13519
Change	-668	-3079	-963
Change over years	-7%	-29%	-7%
TOTAL ENROLMENTS			
	Clydebank	Greenock	Paisley
Start 2013-14	7160	11264	12834
2016-2017	6461	4724	15471
Change	-699	-6540	2637
Change over years	-10%	-58%	21%

We must protect local college provision, no matter where it is suffering.

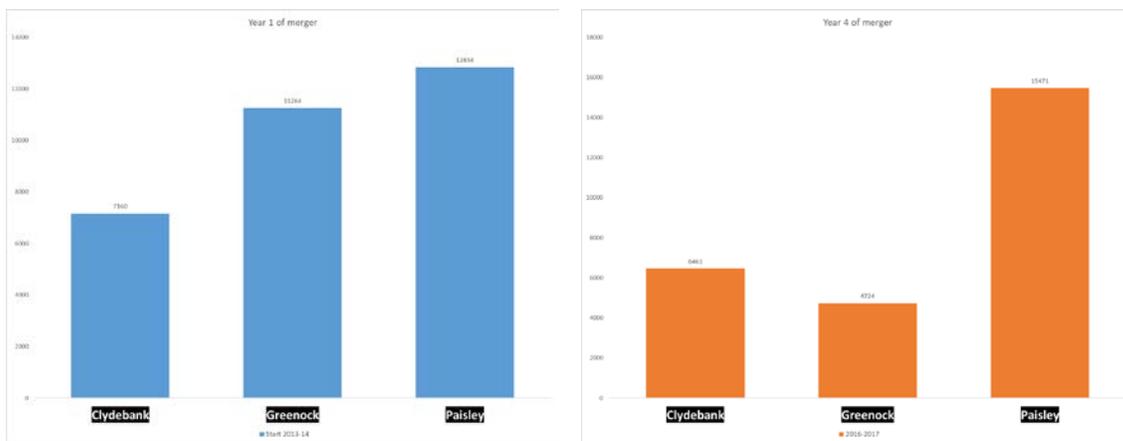
Irrespective of who loses and who benefits from the merger, such massive downsizing and reduction of student numbers whether applications or enrolment is unacceptable for local communities. The facts and figures within this document clearly illustrate a story of downsizing, especially if we consider the next sections showing demographics not ever reaching such decline within the Inverclyde area or surrounding areas.

Year after year we have challenged senior management in respect of cuts to courses, the story continues to be the same and no positive actions have been taken to address the situation.

When one or two courses are threatened in Clydebank and Paisley, Greenock has four or five courses **cut** and students told to travel or lose out!

Growth areas had been identified for West College Scotland. However, one growth area of Software Development at the time had HNC Software Development cut in Greenock. Challenging management upon the cut to a mutually agreed growth area, it was suggested the item on the list for growth was for Paisley. Unfortunately, reps from Clydebank and Paisley never heard this comment. It remains baffling as to why growth areas would not have investment, patience and additional marketing to drive forward for Greenock. Each year we have witnessed savage cuts to courses and student numbers attending the campuses in Greenock. Our eyes do not deceive us, the figures confirm.

A reminder, at merger, Greenock had 11,264 total student enrolments, Paisley had 12,834 and Clydebank had 7,160 ... after 4 years of merger, the story is very different ...



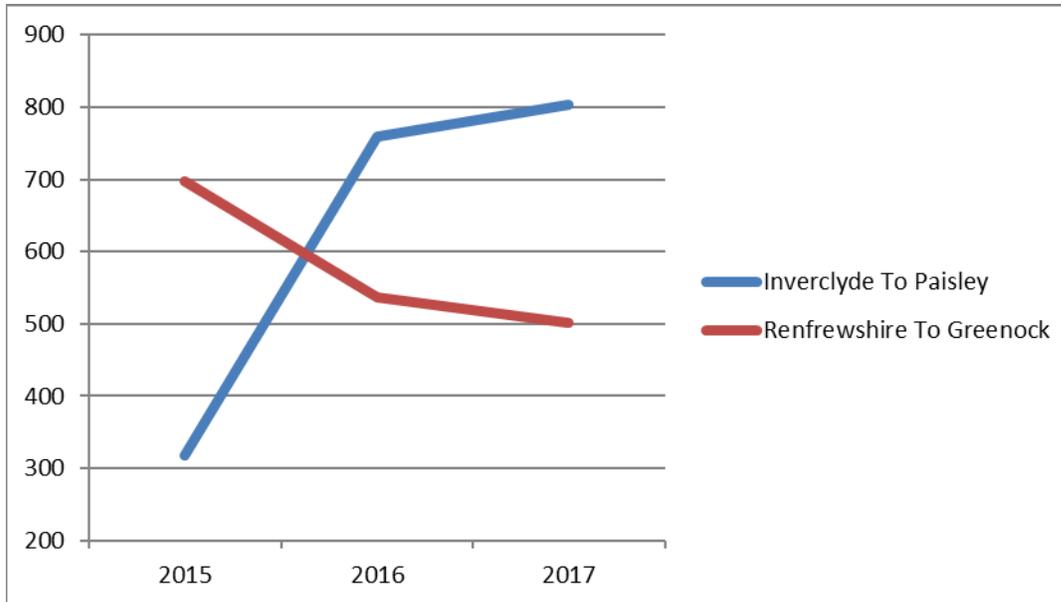
Greenock is now the smallest campus with a considerable reduction during a short time period of merger.

We can see the difference, we don't really need these figures to confirm but it is clearly illustrated and reinforces our knowledge of how Greenock has been damaged with such negative cuts by management.

More facts and figures

Around 1,000 students every year from the Inverclyde area attending college outside of our catchment area.

As the following chart illustrates, the number of students from Inverclyde attending Paisley Campus has increased over the past three years, meanwhile, the number of students from the Renfrewshire area attending Greenock Campuses has decreased.



	2015	2016	2017	Change in years:	Percentage change:
Inverclyde To Paisley	317	759	804	487	154%
Renfrewshire To Greenock	697	536	502	-195	-28%

- Huge increase of Inverclyders travelling to Paisley Campus by 154%
- Students have complained of having to travel to Paisley from Inverclyde
- Numerous class groups in Greenock Campuses have been told their second year HN course would only be possible if they transfer to Paisley Campus, causing an array of major difficulties for many of those students.
- The figures above have been obtained from the Scottish Funding Council website
- Greenock now has a number of students each year leaving the college feeling extremely aggrieved and this spreads negativity within the community

Around 1,000 students from Inverclyde every year attend college outside of the Inverclyde area.

Demographics

The population of Inverclyde decreased over a 5-year period between 2011 and 2016 by only 2.54% from 81,220 to 79,160 for all age groups. Over a longer 10-year period, the reduction was only 3.84% from 82,330 to 79,160 and young people between the ages of 16-30 decreased over the same 10-year period by only 4.86% between 2006 and 2016 from 14,662 to 13,949. Similar percentage decrease for the age group of 25-40 with last year offering a glimmer of hope of population growth and schools across Inverclyde are busting at the seams with reports of exceeding their original capacity.

Inverclyde Council (website) on Wednesday 21 June 2017 stated there has been “more people moving to Inverclyde”.

The number of people moving to Inverclyde is at its highest ever level according to the latest estimates from the National Records of Scotland (NRS).

Households in Inverclyde increased over the same 5-year period by 0.65% and increased by 1.18% over the 10-year period of 2006 – 2016.

Figures referred above have been gathered from the National Records Office for Scotland containing all demographics for all constituencies across Scotland.

Deprivation

According to Inverclyde CHP, Inverclyde has a number of severely deprived datazones lying in the bottom 20% of ranked datazones in Scotland.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation published a document in 2012 that records the percentage of population that are income deprived in comparison to the rest of West Scotland as well as Scotland as a whole:

	Greenock and Inverclyde	West Scotland	Scotland
Percentage of the population which is income deprived (%)	18.7	14.2	13.4

They also refer to the percentage of the population in similar fashion for employment deprived:

	Greenock and Inverclyde	West Scotland	Scotland
Percentage of the population which is employment deprived (%)	19.1	14.9	12.8

Voluntary Severance and Natural Redundancies

Over the past few years, Greenock staff have witnessed a large reduction in staff numbers locally at Greenock Campuses. Voluntary severance and staff leaving without being replaced or transferred to other campuses has left its empty mark upon classrooms and staffrooms. The drain of talent and expertise with no tangible training has contributed to low morale among staff based in Greenock.

Estates and management plan to relocate

The combined floor space of the Waterfront and Finnart Street Campuses is approximately 313,714 square feet, with land footprint being about 400,000 square feet and providing approximately 60,000 square feet car parking space.

Indicative measurements based upon tape recordings during the summer break 2018 and incorporates shared car parking space at the Waterfront Campus, it does not take into consideration the street parking around the West End of Greenock that combines with good access to public transport and central location.

Greenock - Waterfront Campus and Finnart Street Campus - Indicative measurements												
Building or space:	Metres						Feet					
	Length	Width	Squared	Floors	Total Squared	Length	Width	Squared	Floors	Total Squared		
Waterfront Campus	40	35	1400	3	4200	131	115	15069	3	45208		
Car Park (Front side) WFC	58	15	870	0	870	190	49	9365	0	9365		
Main Car Park WFC	62	39	2418	0	2418	203	128	26027	0	26027		
Road Waterfront	60	9	540	0	540	197	30	5813	0	5813		
Other land Waterfront	30	15	450	0	450	98	49	4844	0	4844		
	TOTAL LAND FOOTPRINT:					8478	TOTAL LAND FOOTPRINT:					91256
Workblock FSC	87	74	6438	0	6438	285	243	69298	0	69298		
Finnart Tower	74	19	1406	8	11248	243	62	15134	8	121072		
Basement inc nursery and ARC etc.	94	67	6298	0	6298	308	220	67791	0	67791		
Library and Canteen	31	31	961	0	961	102	102	10344	0	10344		
Car Part FSC	70	30	2100	0	2100	230	98	22604	0	22604		
Other Land and landscaping	45	25	1125	0	1125	148	82	12109	0	12109		
	TOTAL LAND FOOTPRINT:					28170	TOTAL LAND FOOTPRINT:					303219
	Greenock TOTALS:						Greenock TOTALS:					
	Floor Space					29145	Floor Space					313714
	Car Parking Space					5388	Car Parking Space					57996
	Land Footprint					36648	Land Footprint					394476
	Total Floor Space in Square Metres					29145	Total Floor Space in Square Feet					313714

The Finnart Tower is not only iconic within Greenock, it is a good size for the local community and has been altered many times of the years since the early 1970's to accommodate planned curriculum changes and flexible environmental requirements.

Management have presented plans to move operations to a new build at a plot behind The Beacon Theatre at the Waterfront and possibly sell both the current Waterfront Campus and Finnart Street Campus. *The plot would be shared with developers for housing and the*

very limited space for building a new campus would have restrictions in height, meaning a small campus, in fact we could say a very small campus in comparison to our current buildings and car parking allocation. Management have spoken of a small amount of car parking and more use of public transport, failing to consider the needs of students and staff who need to use motor vehicles or would be highly inconvenienced by the location.

In the interim, it has been suggested the current Waterfront Campus would be sold / closed with everything being transferred into the Finnart Street Campus. This would be further downsizing and decisions would be made as to floor space use at Finnart Street Campus.

Questions remain as to what departments and courses would be accommodated within any new build.

These questions and decisions add to staff worries for the longer-term future, further compounded by a staff survey in May 2016 that suggests only 26% of West College Scotland staff who responded to the survey feel decision making within the college is fair and transparent, and *only 23% of respondents feel confident that management evaluate all suggestions and give feedback in a timely manner.*

Fears consolidated ...

At best ... a minuscule campus at the Waterfront with no parking and a fraction of current curriculum

At worst ... no campus at all – no funds forthcoming from government. A super campus at Paisley instead, with no local college provision in Greenock

The current downsizing / decline of Greenock Campuses is not only worrying to staff but so many within the Inverclyde and surrounding communities. The college has over 100 years of history in Greenock and is a beacon of hope amid deprivation. Greenock not only needs a strong college based in Greenock, but it would be a disaster if the current situation of strangulation of local provision continues at the rate incomparable to demographics. It has been reported the population increased last year and planning should consider growth of schools, population changes in the future. The rate of decline within the College's Greenock Campuses is unacceptable and action is required.

Ideas, discussion points and action

1. Request an **independent review** of upgrading and long-term development of the Finnart Street Campus with various options for the buildings, noting similar buildings throughout Scotland have been modernised by cladding or glass externals and internal modification. Keeping the current size of buildings might assist with a campaign to safeguard Greenock campuses for a positive outlook.
2. **Lobby government** for around £15 million to bring the current building at Finnart Street to a standard of repair to allow normalised annual maintenance spend that would allow for an extension to the longevity of the building and overall less expense in coming years. This could allow for a phased modernisation of the building without the urgency.
3. **Lobby government, local politicians and seek support from the local community** via all media to ensure the future of the Greenock Campuses and look towards growth based upon facts / figures that would suggest many more students could be attending local courses instead of heading elsewhere. This could be positive to the community coming together for a boost to college life. Positive as opposed to the prolonged negativity of cuts, downsizing, insecurity of future build and aggrieved students.
4. **Gather support** from the local community, highlight the unacceptable downsizing detailed within this document via media outlets, social networking and word of mouth to apply pressure upon the new principal / senior management. Enough is enough, levels of local college provision must be protected and improved to adequate expectations for the local community to which we serve.
5. Show our feelings, frustrations and worries on behalf of our community by **demonstrating** with placards before work, during dinner breaks and after work. We need to harness the power of the community / voters, students / prospective students who would otherwise have to travel, apply pressure upon government for funds and action to save our local college provision.
6. Staff and services have been moved to Paisley from Greenock. A means to improve the standing of Greenock and to allow for positive progression as opposed to negative decline, would be to insist the college relocates commercial wing be partially located in Greenock along with the return of Distance Learning and work towards the reinstatement of growth areas.
7. Demand management **advertise all courses for ALL campuses** to allow the market to dictate where they will run. No more advertising for individual campuses. In addition, more investment for marketing in localities around Inverclyde. It makes sense to invest in Greenock when it is clear students should be coming to local courses and reverse the strange downsizing.

8. Demand a **transparent course application system** with administrative officers directly based within academic departments to improve working with CQL's / CEL's / Lecturers. Applications should be viewed from start to finish and monitored from within academic departments.
9. An immediate return of **community classes** and more community links similar to the outreach centres in Paisley and Clydebank. Greenock had all Inverclyde Library classes ended without consultation and without a review for expanding other curricula activity into the community. Staff have plenty of ideas and part time students could boost student numbers with in-fills into full time courses.
10. Demand management to end the practice of sending large group of students from Inverclyde to Paisley or Clydebank when the majority of students for such courses come from Inverclyde / surrounding areas.
11. **Telephone line for Greenock** and not centralised in Paisley. A return to students contacting Greenock for local courses run in Greenock. Several stories of prospective students from the Inverclyde area being directed to Paisley and even advised courses are not running in Greenock when in fact they could or should be delivered at Greenock Campuses.
12. **Request the support of our colleagues** based in Clydebank and Paisley to reinforce commitment to local college provision and not allow for the centralised regional direction. Ask our colleagues in other campuses to collectively place pressure upon senior management / new college principal as well as join the campaign to save our local college provision.
13. **Regular meetings of an action group committee** to keep the momentum. The committee to comprise of EIS and Support Staff trade unions. To work together for everyone who wishes to be based in Greenock or have an interest in our local community.
14. Demand management to return the **James Watt name** for historic, community and a known brand name. Many people in Inverclyde continue to refer to the James Watt College and perceive West College Scotland to be based in Paisley. The name could mean a boost to student numbers, an affinity to the local community and a continuation of over 100 years history. Paisley could have a return of Reid Kerr and Clydebank could have something such as Logie Baird. We need to rebuild the local identity for so many reasons. Local college buildings within a regional college instead of centralisation and a perceived 'mothership' ideology.
15. Any other ideas / action and discussion points welcomed.

The community needs to know what is happening to one of their biggest and best assets. The continued downsizing of local college provision in Greenock is unacceptable.

In summary of proposed actions

- *Review of estates future with a view to retaining and improving current buildings*
- *Lobby government for an assurance upon the continuation of local college provision in Greenock*
- *Positive community support*
- *Demonstration to highlight issues and place pressure upon senior management to end the strange downsizing and end centralisation of services in Paisley*
- *Return of commercial department and distance learning to Greenock*
- *Improved marketing for all courses for all campuses*
- *Changes to student application system*
- *Greater links to local community groups and students*
- *Seek the support of our colleagues in Clydebank and Paisley*
- *Return of the James Watt name for marketing purposes and historical community/social links*

We want a future for our beacon of hope amidst high levels of deprivation and decline. Local college provision in Greenock has been damaged for far too long now, enough is enough!

Staff morale in Greenock is lower than the belly of a slug.