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**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

7 April 2004

A meeting of the **CPP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** will be held in the **SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE'S OFFICES, KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LOCHGILPHEAD** on **WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2004 at 10:00 AM.**

AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
- 2. MINUTES OF MC MEETING HELD ON 11/25 FEBRUARY 2004**(Pages 1 - 6)
- 3. MINUTES OF CPP MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2004**(Pages 7 - 10)
- 4. MATTERS ARISING**
 - (a) Reflection on DRIVESafe Launch (All)
 - (b) Report on Impact of Poverty on Mental Health Seminar (Neil Wallace)
 - (c) Partnership Training (Andrew Campbell)
- 5. PRESENTATION BY ALISTAIR MACGREGOR ON THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STOCK TRANSFER**
- 6. UPDATE ON THE EDUCATION PPP/NPDO (JAMES MCLELLAN)**
- 7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
 - (a) Results of 7th Questionnaire to Citizens' Panel (Lolita Lavery) (Pages 11 - 64)
 - (b) Review of Consultant's Contract (Lolita Lavery)
 - (c) CPP Communications Plan (Lolita Lavery)
- 8. COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES**
 - (a) Deprivation Study - Way Forward (Lolita Lavery)
 - (b) Update by Theme Group Leaders on Progress with New CPP Priorities
 - (c) Scottish Executive's "Changing to Deliver" Programme (Lolita Lavery) (Pages 65 - 68)

(d) Scottish Rural Partnership Fund - Consultation Paper (Lolita Lavery) (Pages 69 - 100)

(e) Best Value Audit (James McLellan)

9. COMMUNITY REGENERATION IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

E1 (a) Update on Implementation of Pilot Scheme (Lynn Smillie) (Pages 101 - 104)

(b) Update on Statement of Readiness (Tricia McCrossan)

10. AOCB

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 16 JUNE 2004

E1 – This report is confidential.

COMMUNITY PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2004****1. Welcome/Apologies****Present**

Andrew Campbell (Chair), Scottish Natural Heritage
James McLellan, Argyll and Bute Council
Patricia Keenan, Argyll and Bute Council (SIP Partnership)
Donald MacVicar, Argyll and Bute Council
Dougie Dunlop, Argyll and Bute Council
Carl Olivarius, Argyll and Bute Council
Sue Nash, Argyll CVS
Raymond Park, Strathclyde Police
Neil Wallace, Strathclyde Police
Josephine Stojack, NHS Argyll and Clyde
Douglas Trigg, Association of Community Councils
Alan Milstead, Argyll and the Islands Enterprise
Lolita Lavery, Community Planning Manager
David Dowie, Communities Scotland

Apologies

Lynn Smillie, Argyll and Bute Council

2. Minutes of Previous Management Committee Meeting

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held on 10 December 2003.

3. Matters Arising**(a) Update on Training for Partnerships**

Lolita Lavery advised that training for both Partnerships and Council staff was going ahead as scheduled and would commence at the end of March or early April. The cost involved would be known once Lynn Smillie had made the necessary training arrangements with Professor Huxley of Strathclyde Business School.

(b) Update on Argyll and the Isles Local Economic Strategy

Alan Milstead updated the Committee on the progress of preparing the Local Economic Forum Strategy. The finalised Strategy was being considered by the Council's Strategic Policy Committee on 19 February 2004 and thereafter, if adopted, would be circulated to appropriate bodies.

4. Community Regeneration Implementation Group**(a) Appointment of New Chair for Implementation Group**

James McLellan stated that Lynn Smillie had taken over as Chair of this Group following the departure of Alasdair Bovaird. It was generally felt that the Group had a limited time span but, if needed, could be resurrected at some point in the future. James added that although Lynn had returned to Corporate Services in her capacity of Area Corporate Services Manager, it was agreed that she would chair the last two or three meetings of the Group.

(b) Notes of Previous Meeting

The notes of the previous Community Regeneration Implementation Group meeting held on 19 January 2004 were briefly discussed. Lolita asked that it be noted that Argyll and Bute had been chosen as one of the 6 areas to pilot the Standards for Community Engagement.

(c) CPP Transitional Structure Proposals

James pointed out that the diagram of the CPP transitional structure reflected the proposals as previously agreed. It was noted that although membership of the groups had not been looked at in detail, it was agreed that Area Committees be added to the structure diagram proposals (via a dotted line) and that Community Councils also be included into the elements of the CPP structure. It was further noted that throughout the structure document the words "Local Plan" should be substituted for "Local Priorities" to avoid confusion with the Council's Local Plan.

Issues for Discussion

Lolita sought clarification on the remit and representation of the various Committees and Groups associated with the CPP.

Community Assembly – No change to the Membership and after discussion it was noted that there should be a mid year review (which would determine the frequency of meetings) whatever decision was taken on the length of the planning cycle (3 or 4 years).

Community Planning Partnership – This should still be a core group with CPP Partners (at Chief Executive/Board member level) with the possibility of more integration by community representatives. It was agreed that there was a need to define "community representatives" and that the involvement of appropriate community reps would take time to evolve. It was, however, agreed that community representation should not only be confined to SIP members and that community reps represent Argyll and Bute wide issues to avoid parochialism.

Management Committee – James advised that communities should be engaged at levels 1 & 2 and although there should be some representation from level 2 Forums on the Management Committee, there was no need to involve every Chair of the level 2 Forums on the Management Committee. Discussion took place on the membership of level 2 Forums and it was agreed that this be referred to the Bute and Cowal Area Committee to discuss and take forward with the Pilot Scheme at 4(f) below.

(d) Future Role of Theme Groups

Health & Wellbeing – John provided the background as to what issues the Group would be looking at in the future and the Committee agreed that the Group continue.

Improving Opportunities for Learning, Employment & Skills Development – Alan provided the background as to what issues the Group would be looking at in the future and the Committee agreed that the Group continue.

Sustaining and Developing our Communities, Culture & Environment – Dougie raised some concerns about the focus and membership of this group. The Committee agreed that the Group focus on more strategic policy frameworks such as the Local Plan, Housing Stock Transfer and Transport and that the membership be revisited. David Dowie indicated his willingness to join the Group.

Lolita mentioned that the Theme Groups should perhaps focus on more strategic Argyll and Bute wide issues and that local issues be dealt with at area level. In this way the action plans would be more focussed and this arrangement would also establish the necessary links between the strategic Theme Groups and local area based thematic issues. It was agreed that this should be explored in more detail through the pilot scheme.

(e) Time Frame for Implementing the Transitional Structure

It was noted that this would be established once the pilot scheme was up and running.

(f) Implementation of Pilot Scheme

David Dowie advised that the pilot scheme and staffing structure had been updated and approved by the Implementation Group subject to certain issues being resolved. He provided some background on the proposals to adopt a two tiered structure to develop and implement the scheme and advised that a bid had been submitted to Communities Scotland for grant funding for staff requirements. He mentioned that although external appointments should not be ruled out, it was felt that capacity should exist within partner organisations to enable secondments/transfers to fill the majority of posts. Sue Nash mentioned that the bid to Communities Scotland may have to be revised to reflect a more community based approach to better fit the criteria. The final date for submission was 5 March 2004. It was agreed that Sue should submit a revised bid to Communities Scotland. As it was not certain whether the bid to Communities Scotland would be successful, and as there were mixed feelings regarding the appointment of a new co-ordinator, it was agreed that the Pilot Scheme proposals be

referred to the Council's Bute & Cowal Area Chair in liaison with the Strategic Director for Bute & Cowal to discuss the finer details of the Pilot in collaboration with the Community Regeneration Implementation Group.

(g) Preparing a 'Statement of Readiness' to Integrate Argyll and Bute SIP into the Community Planning Framework

Patricia spoke to the report on the Integration of SIP into the Community Planning Framework and advised that the Statement of Readiness had to be agreed by June 2004 for implementation in 2005. The Committee approved the report on the basis as submitted and noted that the Implementation Group would discuss and agree the readiness statement and thereafter put forward its recommendations.

7(e) Update by Carl Olivarius on 'DRIVESafe' Campaign

Carl updated the meeting on the 'DRIVESafe' campaign and advised that it was near the end of the development process and asked the Management Committee to commit to the recommendations in the report. He suggested a steering group be formed and that a 'rolling' chair be nominated. There was a need to identify a budget and Lynda Syed, Communications Team Manager of Argyll and Bute Council, had shown great interest in the campaign and would assist in its promotion. Lolita advised that £5,000 had been set aside for the 'DRIVESafe' initiative in the 2003/04 CPP budget (subject to approval) and that a further £3,000 was still available from an earlier grant approval by Strathclyde Police. Carl added that no financial commitment had been made beyond year one from Partners. Josephine Stojack said that organisations would need time to discuss funding before committing themselves to contributing to the campaign but agreed that it should be supported. It was agreed to support the campaign and that the launch be organised in conjunction with the CPP meeting in March.

Presentation by the Scottish Centre for Social Justice on Deprivation and Social Exclusion in Argyll and Bute

Following lunch, there was a presentation on 'Deprivation and Social Exclusion in Argyll and Bute' by the Scottish Centre for Research on Social Justice. The Committee discussed the report submitted by the Scottish Centre and a question and answer session followed. It was agreed that research findings be presented to CPP meeting on 5 March and that Lolita make the necessary arrangements. James suggested that the Third Theme Group be tasked with discussing the issues forthcoming from the report. James advised that he would also be taking the report to the Strategic Management Team to get a view on what impact the report would have on the Council.

It was agreed that the Management Committee would reconvene on Wednesday 25th February 2004 at 9:30 in Scottish Natural Heritage's offices to discuss the remaining agenda items.

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2004
(Continuation of the Management Committee meeting held on 11 February 2004)**

1. Welcome/Apologies

Present

Andrew Campbell, Scottish Natural Heritage (Chair)
James McLellan, Argyll & Bute Council
Dougie Dunlop, Argyll & Bute Council (Housing & Social Work)
Lynn Smillie, Argyll & Bute Council (Partnerships Manager)
John Mungall, NHS Argyll and Clyde
Raymond Park, Strathclyde Police
Neil Wallace, Strathclyde Police
Douglas Trigg, Association of Community Councils
Lolita Lavery, Community Planning Manager

Apologies

Donald MacVicar, Argyll and Bute Council
Alan Milstead, Argyll and the Islands Enterprise
David Dowie, Communities Scotland
Sue Nash, Argyll CVS
Patricia Keenan, SIP, Argyll and Bute Council
Josephine Stojack, Argyll and Bute LHCC

Andrew welcomed all to the meeting and advised that David Dowie had asked for clarification to be given on Item 4(f) 'Implementation of Pilot Scheme' from the previous Management Committee meeting. Concern was raised as to whether the Partnership would still be involved in the pilot scheme if the proposals were referred to the Area Committee. The answer to that was "yes". James added that the Area Committee Chair should be involved in the process and that the focus needed to be on identified groups with representation from them reflecting the area priorities. It was agreed that the Pilot Scheme would have to go through various processes, with Partnership involvement, to enable the proposals to be finalised. It was agreed to amend the minute to read 'the Pilot Scheme proposals be referred to the Bute & Cowal Area Chair'.

It was also agreed that cognisance needs to be taken of the outcomes of the Deprivation Study and how we will be addressing deprivation globally across Argyll and Butte. It was agreed that the themes identified in the Deprivation Study should be addressed as part of the CPP priorities and that community representation should come from these interest groups to keep the Partnership focussed.

5. Community Planning Partnership Funding

(a) Draft 2004/05 CPP Budget and Interim Spend Report

Lolita mentioned that the proposed budget had a shortfall of £13,000 and it would have to be decided whether cuts should be made to the budget or whether Partners should be asked to increase their contributions.

Lolita mentioned that £5,000 had been allocated towards the Road Safety Charter and £10,000 towards the CPP website as new templates had to be developed to make it compatible with the Council's website. This would ensure that updates could be made easily and timeously.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the amounts allocated for the Progress Report and Communications Plan be reviewed once more clarity was obtained regarding the content of the Communications Plan and that Lolita prepare an additional table illustrating a 3% inflationary increase in Partners' current contributions. It was also agreed that future budgets should be drafted to reflect essential Partnership running costs and project costs separately.

(b) Funding for Scottish Executive for Developing Community Planning

Lolita mentioned that £15,000 had been received from the Scottish Executive for capacity building initiatives. After some discussion on the detail of the fund it was agreed that the money should be allocated towards the Communications Plan and Capacity Building initiatives (training).

6. Community Engagement

(a) Citizens' Panel Questionnaires

Lolita mentioned that the 7th Questionnaire had recently been issued. It was suggested that better use be made of the responses to questionnaires with some sort of quality measure being built in and that a change of consultant may be beneficial. It was agreed that the results of the 7th Questionnaire should be analysed by the Management Committee prior to the results being presented at the next full Partnership meeting in July. This will enable meaningful discussions to take place on any issues raised.

(b) Review of Consultant's Contract

Lolita advised that the current consultant's contract had come to an end. It was agreed that a working group comprising Andrew Campbell, Douglas Trigg, Raymond Park, John Mungall/Josephine Stojak and Lolita Lavery be set up to draw up a brief for an interview panel for the process of appointing a new consultant.

(c) Draft CPP Communications Plan

Lolita mentioned that she had recently met with Lynda Syed to explore ways in which the Council could assist in drafting the Communications Plan. It was agreed that a small operational group comprising the Communications Managers of 7 Partner organisations be set up to draft the plan which would then be referred to the Management Committee and Community Planning Partnership for approval.

7. Community Planning Issues

(a) Draft CPP Agenda

The draft agenda was discussed and agreed subject to minor amendments.

(b) Issuing of CPP Agendas

Lolita outlined various methods of issuing CPP and Management Committee agendas in order to save on costs. According to the proposed system, agendas would be posted on the Council's website for public viewing with confidential papers being excluded from the public domain. It was agreed to trial the electronic system for issuing agendas at the next CPP meeting but that paper copies also be issued until Partners were familiar with the new system.

(c) Community Planning in the SPTA Areas: Framework for Engagement

James asked that Lolita draft a response to Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority along the lines of the comments received from Dave Duthie.

(d) Update by Theme Group Leaders on Progress with New CPP Priorities

It was agreed that this item had been sufficiently discussed under agenda item 4(d).

(f) Dialogue Youth/Young Scot Annual Report and Action Plan

Lolita mentioned that the annual report and action plan had already been discussed at each of the Theme Groups meetings. Attention was, however, drawn to the various youth networks that existed and Partners were encouraged to make use of this resource to engage with young people.

(g) Impact of Poverty on Mental Health Seminar

This item was noted. Neil Wallace advised that he would be attending the seminar and would report back to the next meeting.

8. AOCB

Highlands and Islands Case Document for European Funding Post 2006

A note from Jane Fowler, European Manager of Argyll and Bute Council, with a copy of the Case Documentation, was issued for information.

Historic Environment and Community Planning

A report from the Heritage Futures team at Glasgow Caledonian University was issued for information.

Housing Stock Transfer Proposal

This item was noted. Lolita mentioned that it was listed as one of the actions of the 3rd Theme Group.

Crofters Commission

Lolita advised that the Crofters Commission were keen to become a Community Planning Partner. Discussion had not been reached with regard to financial contribution but Committee were happy for the Crofters Commission to join. It was noted that Lolita had been invited to a future meeting of the Agricultural Forum to make a presentation on the Community Planning Partnership.

Evaluating Community Planning in West Dunbartonshire

Lolita mentioned that she had attended a meeting on the evaluation of West Dunbartonshire's community planning process and briefly outlined the findings of the report. It was agreed lessons could be learned from this.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 on Wednesday 14 April 2004 in SNH's offices in Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead.

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**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP held in
the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD
on FRIDAY, 5 MARCH 2004**

Present:

Councillor Allan Macaskill (Chair)
Councillor Robin Banks
James McLellan, Argyll and Bute Council
Lolita Lavery, Community Planning Partnership
Jon Pickering, Scottish Centre for Social Justice
Jenny Spratt, Scottish Centre for Social Justice
Joan Inglis, Tourist Board
Raymond Park, Strathclyde Police
Neil Wallace, Strathclyde Police
Andrew Campbell, Scottish Natural Heritage
Douglas Trigg, Association of Argyll and Bute
Community Councils
John Mungall, NHS Argyll and Clyde
David Fife Jackson, West Loch Fyne Community
Council
Joe Hughes, Luing Community Council
Jim Clinton, Bute Community Links
Lynn Smillie, Argyll and Bute Council

Carl Olivarius, Argyll and Bute Council
Bill Dalrymple, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs
National Park
Josephine Stojak, NHS Argyll and Clyde
Donald MacVicar, Argyll and Bute Council
Dougie Dunlop, Argyll and Bute Council
Jacqui MacLeod, Crofters Commission
Hilda McGonagall, Argyll and the Islands
Enterprise
Alan Milstead, Argyll and the Islands Enterprise
David Hutchison, Strathclyde Fire Brigade
Alison Debling, Argyll and Bute Council
Sandra McGlynn, Argyll and Bute Council
Ian Love, Argyll and Bute Council
Shane Rankin, Crofters Commission
Erik Jespersen, NHS Argyll and Clyde
Nick Purdy, Forestry Commission Scotland

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor Allan Macaskill welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Shane Rankin and Jacqui MacLeod of the Crofters Commission and Bill Dalrymple of the National Park who were attending for the first time.

Apologies were accepted from the following people:-

Bob McIntosh, Forestry Commission Scotland
Frances Webster, Careers Scotland
Jim McCrossan, Argyll and Bute Council
Moir Nelson, SEPA
Alan Cumming, Ministry of Defence
Jack Martin, Jobcentre Plus
James Fraser, Tourist Board
David Dowie, Communities Scotland
Sue Nash, Argyll CVS
Alan MacDougall, Fyne Homes
Patricia Keenan, Argyll and Bute Council
Anne Clark, Islay and Jura CVS
Chris Thomas, Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire
Mitch Roger, Strathclyde Police
Karen Murray, NHS Argyll and Clyde
Alasdair Oatts, Argyll and Bute Care & Repair

2. PRESENTATION BY IAN LOVE ON THE COUNCIL'S LOCAL PLAN

The Head of Statutory Plans gave a presentation on the newly prepared consultative draft of the Argyll and Bute Local Plan which replaces the 8 adopted local plans covering most of Argyll and Bute. The Chair advised that the consultation period would end on 12 March 2004 and that a finalised plan would be prepared during 2004 (subject to any further consultation process that may be required to comply with the statutory provisions for the adoption of the Local Plan).

3. PRESENTATION BY ERIK JESPERSEN ON THE NEW GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES CONTRACT

Erik Jespersen gave a presentation on the new GP contract implications for Argyll and Bute which included addressing recruitment problems in General Practice, rewarding Quality Practice and better Chronic Disease Management. Erik advised that the contract had to go through a public consultation exercise and was seeking the support of Local Politicians and MSPs. James McLellan asked that Erik provide an update at a future meeting of the Community Planning Partnership on the progression of the proposals.

4. PRESENTATION BY THE SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ON DEPRIVATION AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN ARGYLL AND BUTE

There was a presentation on "Deprivation and Social Exclusion in Argyll and Bute" by the Scottish Centre for Research on Social Justice. The Partnership discussed the report submitted by the Scottish Centre and a question and answer session followed. It was agreed that in terms of taking this work forward, the 3rd Theme Group would be tasked with discussing the issues contained in the report and submitting proposals to the Partnership.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2003

The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held on 14 November 2004.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Andrew Campbell thanked the Chair for the support of the Partnership in securing money for the NADAIR Project from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

7. KEY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) PROPOSED CPP TRANSITIONAL STRUCTURE (ANDREW CAMPBELL)

Andrew Campbell advised of the proposed Community Planning Partnership transitional structure which included the remit, membership, accountability and frequency of meetings of the various components of the top level and area levels. The Partnership was invited to discuss and agree the various components of the structure to enable implementation to take place.

Having looked at the membership of the various components of the Community Planning structure at each of the levels, it was agreed that Community Representatives should reflect the main themes or priorities that the Community Planning Partnership is trying to address such as community regeneration, transition of young people and access to services and that it is left to each appropriate level to decide what themes or priorities the Community Representatives should represent. It was further agreed that the proposal for the Bute and

Cowal Pilot depicting the supporting staff structure be noted at this stage.

(b) PARTNERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (ANDREW CAMPBELL)

Andrew Campbell advised that a Partnership Communications Plan was necessary to raise the profile of Community Planning and firmly embed it within Partner organisations. It was agreed to establish a small working group of PR professionals to take forward the preparation of the Communications Plan, and that the group comprise the Council (Chair), NHS Argyll and Clyde, Strathclyde Police, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Communities Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Tourist Board.

(c) DRAFT 2004/2005 CPP BUDGET AND FUNDING FROM THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE FOR DEVELOPING COMMUNITY PLANNING (ANDREW CAMPBELL)

The Partnership discussed the draft 2004/2005 Community Planning Partnership budget together with the proposed contributions from Partners. It was agreed to go forward with Table 1 which illustrated a 3% inflationary increase being applied equally to the contributions of all current contributing Partners. James McLellan advised that the Management Committee should look into splitting the budget for 2004/05 into a central fund and one for specific projects. Lolita Lavery highlighted that the Scottish Executive were expecting all Community Planning Partnerships to be involved in discussions as to how they would be spending the resources which had been allocated to them. Lolita advised that the Partnership would be using the funds for the Communications Plan and for capacity building (training) initiatives identified through Bute and Cowal pilot which was agreed.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES

(a) LAUNCH OF 'DRIVESAFE' CAMPAIGN (CARL OLIVARIUS)

Carl Olivarius updated the meeting on the 'DRIVESafe' campaign and advised that it would be officially launched on 13 April 2004 and asked the Partnership to support the campaign. It was agreed to approve the recommendations contained within the report with the addition of the NHS Communications Team at 4.10.

(b) UPDATE ON NEW CPP PRIORITIES (THEME GROUP LEADERS)

The Theme Group Leaders spoke to their reports on the new Community Planning Partnership priorities and on how the groups proposed to take these forward. The Partnership noted the Actions contained within the reports and that the Joint Health Improvement Plan was being revised to reflect these Actions.

(c) CITIZENS' PANEL (LOLITA LAVERY)

Lolita Lavery advised that the 7th Citizens' Panel questionnaire which revisited the 1st questionnaire had been issued at the end of February and that the results would be discussed at the next meeting of the Community Planning Partnership. It was noted that

the results should be available to partners in advance of the meeting and so should allow a discussion of the results and the implications. Lolita also mentioned that the current Consultant's contract had come to an end and that a small working group had been established to prepare a brief for appointing a new consultant.

(d) UPDATE ON JOINT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (JOHN MUNGALL)

Dealt with at 8(b) above.

9. ARGYLL & THE ISLES LOCAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY (ALAN MILSTEAD)

Alan Milstead gave the background to the Strategy which covered the area for Argyll and the Islands Enterprise and mentioned that the Strategy had previously been agreed by the Argyll and the Isles Enterprise and Argyll and Bute Council. The Partnership considered the strategy and after various questions agreed to adopt the strategy as submitted.

10. AOCB

Alan Milstead stated that having the papers for the meeting issued electronically was an excellent idea, but asked if the papers could be published on the Community Planning Partnership's website rather than on the Council's website. Lolita advised that in the short term the papers would sit in the Council's Committee system but that longer term arrangements were being investigated to put the papers on the Partnership's website.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Community Planning Partnership meeting will be held on Friday 2 July 2004 in the Council Chamber, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Argyll and Bute – Citizens Panel
Seventh Questionnaire
Community Planning, Housing and Community Safety

Prepared For:
Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership
Kilmory Castle
Kilmory
Lochgilphead
Argyll
PA31 8RT

Prepared By:
Lowland Market Research

April 2004

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1.0 Introduction

The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership is committed to creating a vigorous local democracy in Argyll and Bute by working in close consultation with the local community and ensuring that the interests and views of local people are taken account an extensive process of consultation with customers and citizens in its local communities.

This report details the main findings to emerge from the seventh questionnaire sent to members of the Argyll and Bute Citizens Panel. The panel consists of a representative cross section of 1,000 local residents.

The information in this report should be viewed in conjunction with the detailed data tables which are available separately. These tables provide detailed information on the responses given by geographic area, gender, age employment status and house tenure.

1.1 Community Planning

The Community Planning Partnership within Argyll and Bute is presently developing a Community Plan. The key partners in this process, at the time of the research were;

Argyll and Bute Council	Housing Associations
Argyll and the Islands Enterprise	Islay and Jura Council for Voluntary Service
Argyll and Clyde Health Board	Lomond and Argyll Primary Care Trust
Argyll Council for Voluntary Service	Scottish Enterprise Dumbartonshire
Bute Community Links	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Caledonian MacBrayne	Scottish Homes
Careers Partnership	Scottish Natural Heritage
Community Councils	Strathclyde Police
Employment Service (Jobcentres)	Tourist Board
Forestry Commission	West of Scotland Water
Forest Enterprise	

The partners involved in the Community Planning Core Group are committed to close consultation with the local community to ensure that the interests and views of local people are taken account in the development of policies and services which affect their daily lives.

Community Planning is not just about producing another plan which will sit in a drawer or on a shelf. It is an ongoing and dynamic process, which identifies new ways of working. All public sector agencies are striving to deliver quality services for their customers. It is this focus on quality and the customer which has pushed forward the community planning process in Argyll and Bute.

1.2 Questionnaire

A questionnaire and FREEPOST return envelope was sent to all 1,000 members of the citizens panel. The majority of the questionnaire was designed to elicit peoples views and opinions with regard to various aspects of the community planning process and priorities. In addition to this more specific questions were asked with regard to the development of a local housing strategy for Argyll and Bute.

1.3 Panel Profile and Response Rates

Overall, the response rate to the third questionnaire was very strong with 68% of the panel returning a questionnaire. The panel was recruited to provide a representative cross section of the population of Argyll and Bute. Profiling variables included geographic area, age and gender. Each of the Councils administrative areas area accounts for approximately one quarter of the panel members. A similar percentage response was received from each area, albeit Bute and Cowal being the lowest of the four areas.

Administrative Areas	Actual Panel Members	Percentage Response
Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay	259	61%
Bute and Cowal	252	53%
Oban, Lorn and the Isles	209	69%
Helensburgh and Lomond	291	67%

Council Area	Number of Panel Members	Percentage Response
Bute	80	49%
Cowal	172	58%
Helensburgh and Lomond	291	67%
Islay, Jura, Colonsay and Gigha	39	72%
Lorn	170	69%
Mid Argyll and Kintyre	200	57%
Mull, Coll, Tiree and Lismore	59	76%

Age	Actual Panel Members	Percentage Response
18-24	110	39%
25-34	155	49%
35-44	186	60%
45-54	188	68%
55-64	179	74%
65-74	123	81%
75+	68	65%

2.0 Research Outputs

2.1 Satisfaction with Public Services in Argyll and Bute

Community Planning is a process to help organisations providing public services in Argyll and Bute (such as Education, Health, Police, etc.) to work together to tackle the issues that people think are important and to provide the services people want, in the way they want them and when they want them. If the Community Planning Partnership is to provide better services, we need to know how satisfied you are and what you think of the public services that are currently being provided in Argyll and Bute.

The majority of respondents (88%) stated that their present method of receiving information about services that are provided in Argyll and Bute was through local newspapers. This peaked at 92% for respondents who lived in Mid Argyll and Kintyre and reached a low of 82% with people from Islay, Jura, Colonsay and Gigha. The second and third most common means of receiving information were word of mouth and newsletters. In contrast to the means by which people presently receive information, when asked how they would prefer to receive information, their preferred choices differed somewhat. The top three preferred methods being;

- Local Newspapers
- Newsletters
- Information Leaflets

This however masks a dramatic change in the dominance of the local newspapers which declines from 88% of people stating they receive information in this way at present to 40% stating that it would be their preferred method. The one communication method which does increase considerably is the internet where 14% presently used it for information but 22% state that it would be their preferred method of receiving information.

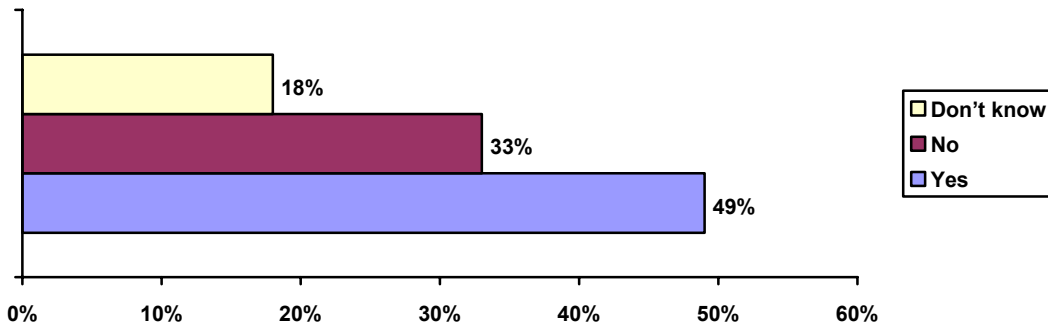
How do you presently receive information about services that are provided in Argyll & Bute and how would you prefer to receive information?

	Present Method	Preferred Method
Local newspapers	88%	40%
Word of mouth	54%	7%
Newsletters	41%	38%
Information Leaflets	38%	32%
Community Councils	26%	14%
Councillors	19%	12%
Local radio stations	16%	11%
Websites (Internet)	14%	22%
Voluntary Organisations	11%	4%
Tenant's Association/Public Forums/User Groups	9%	5%
Local Area Committees	9%	6%
Don't know	1%	5%

Overall, 49% of respondents stated that they would like to be more involved in the planning and delivery of public services within Argyll and Bute. Fifty nine percent of respondents aged 35-44 years would like to become more involved.

As a member of the Citizens' Panel you have the opportunity to become more actively involved in the planning and delivery of public services (such as Education, Health, Police, etc.) Would you like to be more involved in the decision-making process regarding these services?

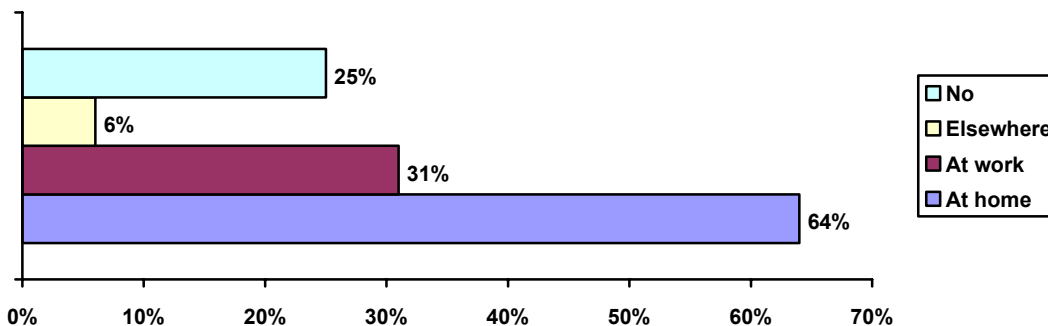
Yes	49%
No	33%
Don't know	18%



Access to the internet is in general quite high, with 64% of respondents stating that they have access at home, at work or through another location. Respondents aged 45-54 years are most likely to have access, 77% stating they had access at home. Older people are least likely to have access to the internet, this peaked at 55% of respondents aged 75+ years stating they do not have access.

Do you have access to the Internet?

At home	64%
At work	31%
Elsewhere	6%
No	25%



Respondents were asked to look at a variety of organisations that plan and deliver public services in Argyll and Bute. The following tables highlight the responses received. The top 10 services with which people show the highest levels of satisfaction are as follows;

	% of respondents satisfied with service
▪ Refuse collection	85%
▪ Local doctor (GP)	83%
▪ Fire service	81%
▪ Post offices	81%
▪ Access to woodlands and forests	76%
▪ Quality of drinking water	69%
▪ Ambulance service	66%
▪ Libraries	66%
▪ Street Lighting	65%
▪ Local Primary School	62%

The levels of satisfaction remain fairly high and drops by only a few percentage points from one service to the next. Overall, in our experience a satisfaction rating in excess of 60% for any service is good.

In contrast the ten services which respondents indicate they are most dissatisfied with are as follows;

	% of respondents dissatisfied with service
▪ Repairs to roads, footpaths and cycle paths	79%
▪ Recreation and sports facilities	45%
▪ Street cleaning/removal of litter	41%
▪ Road safety	33%
▪ Hospitals	33%
▪ Protection of the environment	32%
▪ Tourist facilities	32%
▪ Support to local businesses	30%
▪ Recycling (glass, paper etc)	27%
▪ Housing (Council or Housing Association)	26%

As the above information highlights, the one service which stands out with regard to dissatisfaction is repairs to roads, footpaths and cycle paths, with 79% of respondents stating they are dissatisfied with that service. The next service which people are most dissatisfied with is recreation and sports facilities at 45%, this is however thirty four percentage points less than the repairs to roads and footpaths service.

Other services tend to have a more mixed response with many being fairly balanced in terms of the percentage of people who are satisfied and dissatisfied.

Please indicate how satisfied you are with each listed service?

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither /Nor	Fairly Dis-satisfied	Very Dis-satisfied	Don't use service	Don't know
Fire Service	52%	29%	11%	0%	1%	6%	8%
Local doctor(GP)	47%	36%	8%	5%	4%	1%	1%
Refuse Collection	36%	49%	5%	6%	3%	1%	0%
Ambulance service	34%	32%	12%	10%	5%	11%	8%
Local Primary school	34%	28%	13%	3%	5%	39%	16%
Post Offices	29%	52%	10%	5%	3%	0%	0%
Access to woodlands and forests	25%	51%	13%	5%	3%	6%	3%
Quality of drinking water	24%	45%	11%	11%	8%	4%	1%
Libraries	22%	44%	11%	14%	9%	6%	1%
Hospitals	21%	34%	9%	17%	16%	4%	2%
Local secondary school	18%	33%	16%	9%	8%	42%	17%
Policing	17%	42%	13%	17%	9%	1%	1%
Public transport (bus/train)	16%	45%	14%	13%	10%	13%	2%
Street lighting	16%	49%	13%	15%	6%	5%	2%
Recycling (glass, Paper, etc.)	15%	47%	10%	17%	10%	2%	2%
Sewerage	15%	42%	16%	12%	14%	8%	2%
Ferry service	14%	46%	14%	11%	11%	17%	5%
Access to Nature reserves	13%	46%	22%	6%	2%	11%	11%
Home Helps	10%	27%	23%	12%	6%	49%	23%
Adult education	10%	37%	25%	10%	5%	26%	13%
Education and care for people with disabilities	8%	35%	18%	12%	7%	33%	19%
Care for the elderly	8%	38%	18%	17%	8%	28%	11%
Housing (Council or Housing Association)	8%	22%	22%	16%	10%	45%	21%
Tourist facilities	8%	39%	18%	23%	9%	10%	3%
Street cleaning/removal of litter	7%	35%	14%	22%	19%	1%	2%
Protection of the environment	5%	36%	24%	17%	15%	1%	4%
Recreation & Sports facilities	4%	27%	21%	24%	21%	13%	3%
After School child care	4%	8%	33%	9%	12%	51%	34%
Road safety	4%	38%	21%	22%	11%	0%	4%
Support to local businesses	3%	18%	26%	17%	13%	28%	24%
Training and employment initiatives	3%	22%	27%	12%	12%	36%	24%
Repair to roads, footpaths and cycle paths	2%	12%	7%	28%	51%	2%	1%
Youth Consultation	1%	13%	27%	14%	8%	46%	37%

Respondents were asked to state how informed or uninformed they were with regard to the organisations that make up the Community Planning Partnership. The organisations which people feel most informed about are as follows;

- Argyll and Bute Council
- Strathclyde Police
- NHS Argyll and Clyde
- Tourist Board
- Caledonian MacBrayne

The Council was the organisation which the largest percentage of respondents felt informed about, followed by the Police and NHS Argyll and Clyde. In contrast the organisations which respondents felt least informed about are as follows;

- Communities Scotland
- Argyll Council for Voluntary Service
- Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Argyll and the Islands Enterprise

The above organisations all have an Argyll and Bute wide remit. Two organisations which a high number of people state they are uninformed are Bute Community Links and Islay and Jura Council for Voluntary Service. It must be remembered that these organisations are geographically limited and if we are to look at the responses by the people who live in these areas the results do change significantly.

For example the percentage of respondents living in Bute who say they are informed about Bute Community Links is 42% compared to only 7% for the panel as a whole. A similar pattern can be seen for the responses for the Islay and Jura Council for Voluntary Service, where overall, only 5% of respondents state that they are informed compared to 36% of those people living on Islay, Jura and Colonsay.

The organisations listed below make up the Community Planning Partnership. How well informed do you feel about the type of service each organisation provides?

	Very informed	Fairly Informed	Neither/ Nor	Fairly uninformed	Very Uninformed	Don't know
Argyll & Bute Council	7%	60%	10%	16%	6%	0%
Argyll and the Islands Enterprise	2%	27%	21%	27%	18%	6%
Argyll CVS	2%	10%	16%	24%	28%	20%
Bute Community Links	2%	5%	14%	17%	34%	28%
Caledonian MacBrayne	10%	42%	15%	18%	9%	6%
Careers Scotland	3%	15%	20%	21%	21%	19%
Community Councils	12%	39%	17%	19%	9%	5%
Communities Scotland	1%	6%	18%	24%	29%	22%
Jobcentre Plus	3%	23%	19%	17%	14%	23%
Forestry Commission Scotland	4%	29%	20%	21%	16%	11%
Housing Association	3%	15%	24%	22%	17%	19%
Islay & Jura CVS	1%	4%	12%	15%	33%	35%
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park	4%	31%	18%	25%	11%	11%
NHS Argyll & Clyde	9%	45%	17%	16%	9%	3%
Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire	1%	9%	16%	21%	26%	27%
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	2%	24%	16%	23%	22%	13%
Scottish Natural Heritage	4%	31%	22%	22%	15%	7%
Scottish Water	5%	34%	25%	17%	13%	5%
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	11%	40%	22%	12%	9%	5%
Strathclyde Police	12%	46%	17%	12%	11%	2%
Tourist Board	9%	44%	19%	14%	9%	3%

2.2 Important Issues for Argyll and Bute

Respondents were asked to consider a variety of words and statements and to indicate which ones they would use to describe Argyll and Bute. The top descriptive word for the area was “Attractive”, which 64% of respondents chose, second to this was remote at 49%.

Respondents in general perceived Argyll and Bute as a whole to be remote, even if they did not think the area in which they lived to be remote.

Statements describing Argyll and Bute.

	Argyll & Bute
Attractive	64%
Remote	49%
Safe	47%
Stuck in the past	30%
Accessible	26%
Rundown	25%
Prosperous	17%
Enterprising	14%
Dull	11%
Caring	10%
Unfriendly	5%
Dangerous	2%

When asked to undertake a similar exercise but for the area in which they live, a slightly different pattern emerges depending on the geographic area of Argyll and Bute that the respondents lives in. Once again attractive and safe are in general the two most commonly selected descriptors for the areas in which people live.

Sixty eight percent of the respondents who live on Islay, Jura, Clonsay and Gigha said that it was safe. In contrast only 34% of respondents who lived in Helensburgh thought that the area in which they lived was safe.

Respondents who lived on the islands tended to believe that where they lived was remote, compared to people either on the mainland or on Bute.

Many people stated that the area in which they lived was caring although it was not a word they would use to describe Argyll and Bute as a whole. It was the island communities once again that were most likely to believe that the area in which they lived was caring.

Enterprising was not a word that many people would use to describe the area in which they live, neither in general was prosperous, except for those people who lived in Helensburgh where 47% said that it was prosperous.

Statements describing the area in which people live.

	Bute	Cowal	Helensburgh	Islay, Jura	Lorn	Mid Argyll	Mull, Coll
Prosperous	15%	16%	47%	4%	21%	18%	16%
Remote	10%	27%	10%	43%	23%	32%	42%
Safe	64%	57%	34%	68%	63%	56%	56%
Unfriendly	5%	4%	8%	4%	4%	8%	4%
Enterprising	15%	8%	10%	18%	8%	6%	11%
Rundown	41%	20%	41%	36%	19%	29%	18%
Accessible	33%	29%	52%	25%	33%	25%	20%
Dull	5%	21%	19%	21%	6%	16%	13%
Dangerous	0%	4%	8%	0%	3%	6%	0%
Caring	18%	23%	16%	54%	29%	33%	36%
Stuck in the past	28%	25%	30%	21%	30%	20%	29%
Attractive	51%	57%	42%	46%	55%	61%	62%

Overall, 53% of respondents stated that the area in which they lived has either stayed the same or improved. Forty six percent of respondents thought that it had got worse. The two areas in which people were most likely to say it had improved were Islay, Jura, Colonsay and Gigha and Mull, Coll Tiree and Lismore. Helensburgh is the area in which the largest percentage of respondents thought that their area had got worse, 57% stating this.

Over the past few years, would you say the area where you live (neighbourhood, village, town) has stayed the same, improved or got worse?

	Total Responses	Bute	Cowal	Helensburgh	Islay, Jura	Lorn	Mid Argyll	Mull, Coll
Stayed the same	29%	37%	29%	28%	18%	35%	26%	23%
Improved	24%	26%	26%	14%	32%	28%	27%	30%
Got worse	46%	34%	42%	57%	50%	33%	45%	48%

Respondents were asked to look at a variety of different issues and to select the five issues that they believed to be the most important for the whole of Argyll and Bute. The top five issues were as follows;

- Health 51%
- Jobs 48%
- Roads-Infrastructure/safety 40%
- Education 36%
- Crime 32%

Issues of importance for the whole of Argyll and Bute

Health	51%
Jobs	48%
Roads-Infrastructure/safety	40%
Education	36%
Crime	32%
Tourism	30%
New business	28%
The environment	28%
Elderly care	27%
Public transport (bus/train) – costs	25%
Housing (affordable)	25%
Ferry service	20%
Alcohol & Drugs Misuse	18%
Youth targeted activities	15%
Retail facilities	13%
Training opportunities	10%
Poverty	9%
Leisure & cultural services	9%
Home safety	8%
Fisheries and fish farming	8%
Agriculture	7%
Forestry	6%

Respondents were also asked to look at each issue in turn and indicate on a scale of very important to very unimportant, how important it was for the whole of Argyll and Bute. As the table below summarises, every issue was deemed to be either fairly or very important for Argyll and Bute. If we are to look at the issues which have high very important scores the top 5 issues are as follows;

- Health
- Jobs
- Roads
- Education
- New business

It is interesting to note that the top four issues are the same as the table before, however, in this case the issue new business moves into the top 5 issues.

Please say how important you feel each of the following issues are for the whole of Argyll and Bute?

	Very Important	Quite Important	Neither/ Nor	Not very important	Not important at all	Don't know
Health	88%	10%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Jobs	82%	15%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Roads	80%	17%	2%	1%	0%	0%
Education	75%	22%	2%	0%	0%	1%
New business	69%	24%	4%	0%	0%	2%
Public transport (bus/train)	69%	27%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Elderly care	68%	28%	3%	1%	0%	1%
Ferry service	68%	26%	5%	1%	0%	1%
Crime	65%	23%	7%	3%	1%	1%
The environment	65%	30%	5%	0%	0%	0%
Tourism	65%	27%	7%	1%	1%	0%
Housing	62%	28%	6%	1%	1%	1%
Alcohol and drug misuse	60%	28%	7%	2%	1%	1%
Retail facilities	57%	36%	5%	1%	0%	1%
Youth targeted activities	52%	39%	6%	1%	0%	1%
Poverty	51%	28%	14%	4%	1%	3%
Agriculture	46%	40%	10%	2%	0%	2%
Training opportunities	44%	45%	8%	2%	0%	1%
Home safety	43%	37%	14%	4%	0%	1%
Fisheries and fish farming	31%	42%	17%	6%	1%	2%
Forestry	30%	50%	15%	3%	0%	2%
Leisure and cultural activities	48%	44%	5%	2%	0%	1%

2.3 Priorities for Argyll and Bute

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the three areas which have been identified as priorities to be addressed in the community plan. As the table below highlights there is an overwhelming agreement that the three areas should remain the priorities for Argyll and Bute.

Looking once again at these three main areas, please indicate whether you agree or disagree that these should remain our priorities for Argyll & Bute?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither/ Nor	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Promoting Health and Well Being	64%	29%	5%	2%	0%
Improving Opportunities for Learning, Employment and Skills Development	58%	36%	6%	0%	0%
Sustaining and Developing Argyll & Bute's Communities, Culture and Environment	58%	33%	7%	1%	0%

Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate if there were any other priorities which they thought should be included. The responses to these can be found in the appendices. The responses are many and varied and in many cases are not broad priorities to be addressed for Argyll and Bute as a whole but very specific actions people would like to be taken in their local area. The responses have been taken into consideration along with those from a further question about important issues. The outputs from these two questions have helped to indicate the additional issues that the community plan should consider.

Within each priority there are several issues that the Community Planning Partnership consider to be important for Argyll and Bute and would like to focus on. As the following tables highlight there is a resounding agreement that the issues are correct, the majority of people either agreeing or strongly agreeing with each issue.

Levels of agreement with regard to the types of issues that are important for the Community Planning Partnership to focus on within Argyll and Bute.

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL BEING	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither/ Nor	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Develop a social care and health care service for older people and vulnerable groups	60%	34%	5%	1%	0%
Reduce coronary heart disease, stroke and cancer	60%	32%	7%	1%	0%
Improve mental health and well-being	45%	46%	8%	1%	0%
Create safer communities	54%	35%	10%	1%	0%
Develop the health and well-being of children and young people	63%	32%	5%	0%	0%
IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither/ Nor	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Improve the transport infrastructure of Argyll and Bute	57%	35%	7%	0%	0%
Create employment opportunities and on-going local business support	64%	33%	3%	0%	0%
Improve the skills base of young people in Argyll and Bute	64%	33%	3%	0%	0%
More people choosing to live and work in Argyll and Bute	42%	37%	16%	5%	1%
SUSTAINING AND DEVELOPING ARGYLL AND BUTE'S COMMUNITIIES, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither/ Nor	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Provide adequate and affordable housing	59%	35%	4%	1%	0%
Address transportation and accessibility needs	62%	31%	7%	0%	0%
Improve the accessibility and availability of services and facilities in rural and fragile areas	60%	33%	7%	1%	0%
Enhance the sense of community participation and community identity	41%	44%	13%	2%	0%
Protect and enhance Argyll and Bute's rich environmental assets and diverse habitats and species	57%	35%	7%	1%	0%
Address waste management, renewable energy and energy conservation issues	62%	31%	6%	1%	0%
Enhance Argyll and Bute's rich cultural heritage	41%	42%	15%	2%	0%

Additional Priorities and Issues

In terms of additional issues to be addressed the following were suggested;

Promoting Health and Well-being

- More Police officers
- Drug and alcohol education
- Public transport to and from hospitals
- Good local hospital provision

Improving Opportunities for learning, employment and skills development

- Improved road transport
- Promotion of rural business areas
- Encourage tourism all year round

Sustaining Argyll and Bute's communities, culture and environment

- Improved facilities for recycling
- Affordable housing for local people
- Facilities for young people
- Adding to forestry
- Repair roads and pavements
- Encourage older people to move to smaller houses

A full list of additional priorities and issues can be found in the appendices.

2.4 Local Housing Strategy for Argyll and Bute

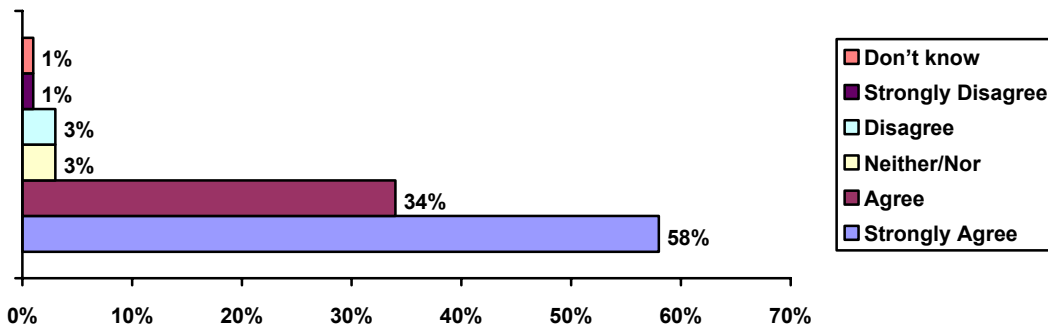
Strategic Goals and Objectives for Housing

“To secure an adequate supply of good quality, affordable housing to help sustain the development of all the communities that we serve”.

Ninety two percent of all respondents stated that they agree with this ultimate goal for housing in Argyll and Bute.

Do you agree or disagree with this ultimate goal for housing in Argyll and Bute?

Strongly Agree	58%
Agree	34%
Neither/Nor	3%
Disagree	3%
Strongly Disagree	1%
Don't know	1%



Respondents were asked, to give an alternative or to describe how they would like it to change if they disagreed with the goal. A wide variety of comments were received several of which are outlined below. A full list of responses can be found in the appendices.

- The above draft is too ambiguous and inconclusive, too vague, it appears to make changes from the local plan that will be detrimental to the ethos of the town: the ethos that brings people to the town in the first place
- With the promise that “good quality, affordable accommodation does not imply the development of unimaginative properties built in the styles of traditional Scottish architecture of the last century – much favoured by “planners”. Everything moves on – even locally sponsored housing!
- I am afraid that, due to people’s greed, affordable housing is more likely to be bought as an investment and soon sold on at a profit. It seems to me that housing for lesser mortals can only be retained for their use by renting. The working wage for a lot of the of the lower paid is only £200 to £300 and buying a house, especially if there is a family would be nearly impossible
- In the local plan you indicate a provision of 260,000 new houses over 10 years, how do you equate this with nearly 50% of houses going for holiday accommodation in rural areas

When considering the 4 key themes that the housing goal addresses, the majority of people agree that these should be the key themes for housing in Argyll and Bute. The key themes being;

- Securing access to an adequate supply of affordable housing to meet current and future needs
- Addressing issues of quality and condition in all housing tenures
- Promoting community development, regeneration and sustainability
- Addressing the housing and support needs of vulnerable people and people with special needs

The housing goal addresses 4 key themes. For each of the stated key themes, please indicate if you agree or disagree that these should be the key themes for housing in Argyll & Bute?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither/ Nor	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
Securing access to an adequate supply of affordable housing to meet current and future needs	58%	36%	4%	1%	0%	1%
Addressing issues of quality and condition in all housing tenures	47%	47%	5%	0%	0%	1%
Promoting community development, regeneration and sustainability	43%	45%	9%	1%	0%	1%
Addressing the housing and support needs of vulnerable people and people with special needs	44%	46%	7%	2%	0%	1%

Respondents were then asked to prioritise these 13 strategic objectives by selecting their top five. The Argyll and Bute citizens panel believe the top 5 strategic objectives to be as follows;

1. Building strong, safe and attractive communities.
2. Increasing housing choice by promoting and enabling a mix of housing tenures, types and sizes.
3. Addressing issues of condition, quality and sustainability in the social rented housing sector .
4. Supporting economic development.
5. Addressing issues of fuel poverty and energy efficiency.

Strategic objectives respondents think are the most important for Argyll and Bute?

	Selected as a priority
Building strong, safe and attractive communities	43%
Increasing housing choice by promoting and enabling a mix of housing tenures, types and sizes	38%
Addressing issues of condition, quality and sustainability in the social rented housing sector	35%
Supporting economic development	34%
Addressing issues of fuel poverty and energy efficiency	32%
Enabling independent living for vulnerable people and those with special needs	26%
Addressing issues of condition, quality and sustainability in the private housing sector	25%
Empowering communities and increasing community participation	23%
Improving the management of social rented housing by developing flexible and innovative services	21%
Addressing issues of homelessness through the implementation of the Argyll & Bute Homelessness Strategy	19%
Increasing the understanding of vulnerable people and special needs groups	16%
Improving information and advice services	14%
Increasing the understanding of the operation of housing systems	6%

The types of big issues or problems that respondents think have been missed out include the following. A full list of responses can be found in the appendices.

- There is a huge problem of houses being sold as holiday homes. This should be discouraged, perhaps on higher council tax or charges so local people can find homes at an affordable price.
- Creating 'areas' for the like-minded people to live, families/kids together, not sticking single, disabled folk into noisy housing schemes. Smaller dwelling communities, more personal and friendly – similar types – careful selection.
- Resources and advice to owners/tenants in existing housing that falls well short of energy efficiency targets
- Grants should not be means tested for people who pay Council Tax – more attention to repairing older houses – more attention to repairing older houses – no grants for tourism to build houses to let. Think of people who live and work in the area
- Policing of misuse of disabled parking facilities /theft of blue badges or misuse thereof
- Providing good communal living accommodation for these vulnerable people who cannot live independently
- Run down private sector housing and buildings
- Unsociable neighbours
- There should be a movement away from scattered housing developments in rural Argyll because the pre-fab mentality has already done great damage to Mulls visual appearance. And this is VITAL to the economy
- I think you need to be more specific in your aims. They all sound good, but are like political manifestos instead of solid, achievable "Smart" targets.
- Proper resources needed at all times to help vulnerable – not just to pay lip service
- Planning considerations – Argyll is a beautiful country and there is far too much poorly, designed housing allowed. Your goals will require new housing to be built. It will be good for everyone if it is well designed and fits into the landscape and existing housing of the area
- Encouraging the redevelopment of brown-field sites/Ensuring housing projects do not infringe on the quality of our environment i.e. density, water's edge, green-belt, height
- I think there is a need for investment in the social rented housing sector. Where out-of-date poor quality buildings cause problems for the tenants and discourage pride and enterprise. There has evolved a 'ghetto' problem of social deprivation, substance abuse, poor maintenance and anti social behaviour
- Enabling Independent living for the vulnerable

Levels of agreement on the 13 strategic objectives that have been identified within the 4 key themes.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither/ Nor	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
Increasing housing choice by promoting and enabling a mix of housing tenures, types and sizes	39%	49%	8%	2%	0%	2%
Improving the management of social rented housing by developing flexible and innovative services	25%	50%	18%	2%	0%	5%
Improving information and advice services	23%	49%	21%	2%	1%	4%
Addressing issues of condition, quality and sustainability in the private housing sector	32%	48%	13%	5%	1%	2%
Addressing issues of condition, quality and sustainability in the social rented housing sector	38%	49%	10%	2%	0%	1%
Addressing issues of fuel poverty and energy efficiency	43%	44%	9%	2%	0%	1%
Building strong, safe and attractive communities	54%	36%	7%	0%	0%	2%
Empowering communities and increasing community participation	36%	47%	12%	2%	0%	2%
Supporting economic development	46%	42%	9%	1%	0%	1%
Increasing the understanding of the operation of housing systems	18%	50%	25%	2%	0%	4%
Increasing the understanding of vulnerable people and special needs groups	34%	43%	20%	1%	0%	2%
Enabling independent living for vulnerable people and those with special needs	36%	43%	15%	3%	0%	1%
Addressing issues of homelessness through the implementation of the Argyll & Bute Homelessness Strategy	28%	44%	19%	4%	1%	4%

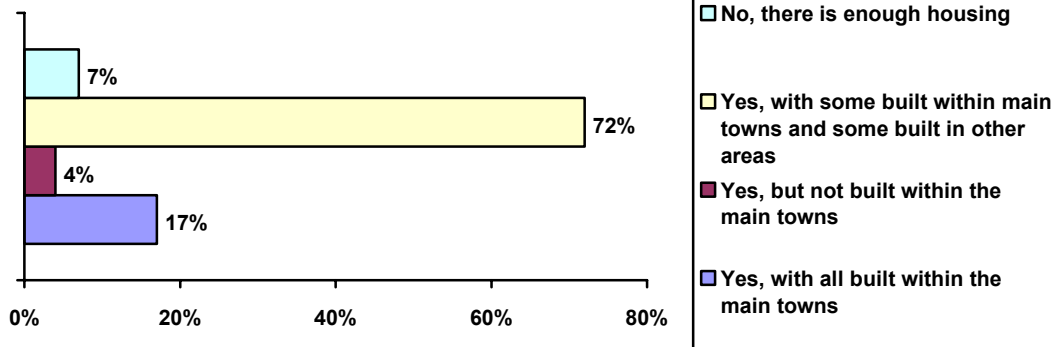
Supply of Housing in Argyll and Bute

It is estimated that by 2012 there will be between 1,800 and 3,600 additional households in Argyll and Bute with an increasing number of single person households.

Almost three quarters (72%) of all respondents believe that more housing should be built to satisfy the needs of these households with some built in the main towns and some built in other areas. A further 17% of respondents believe all of this provision should be built within the main towns.

Do you think more housing should be built to satisfy the housing needs of these households?

Yes, with all built within the main towns	17%
Yes, but not built within the main towns	4%
Yes, with some built within main towns and some built in other areas	72%
No, there is enough housing	7%



Affordable Housing in Argyll and Bute

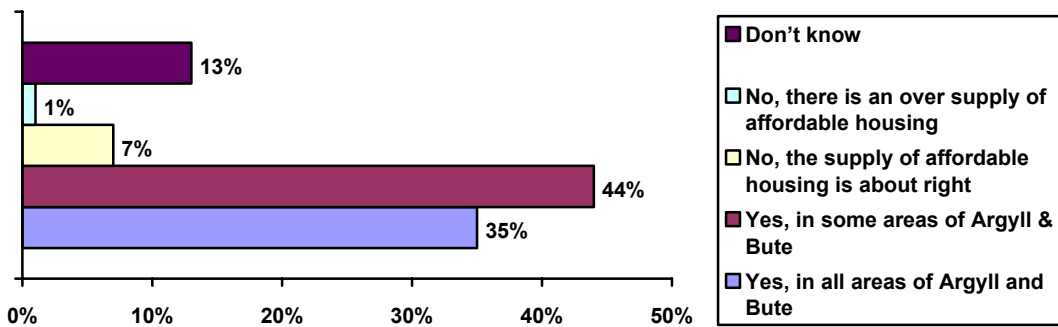
Affordable housing is housing provided for people who cannot afford to buy or rent a house at normal market prices. Homes rented from the Council, homes rented from a Housing Association or low cost home ownership options are all considered to be “affordable housing”.

House prices and rents in certain areas of Argyll and Bute have rise to such an extent that it is very difficult for many households with low incomes to afford housing at the normal market price.

When asked the question “Do you think there is a shortage of affordable housing in Argyll and Bute”, 35% of respondents said yes, in all areas of Argyll and Bute, with a further 44% saying yes but only in some areas of Argyll and Bute.

Do you think there is a shortage of affordable housing in Argyll & Bute?

Yes, in all areas of Argyll and Bute	35%
Yes, in some areas of Argyll & Bute	44%
No, the supply of affordable housing is about right	7%
No, there is an over supply of affordable housing	1%
Don't know	13%

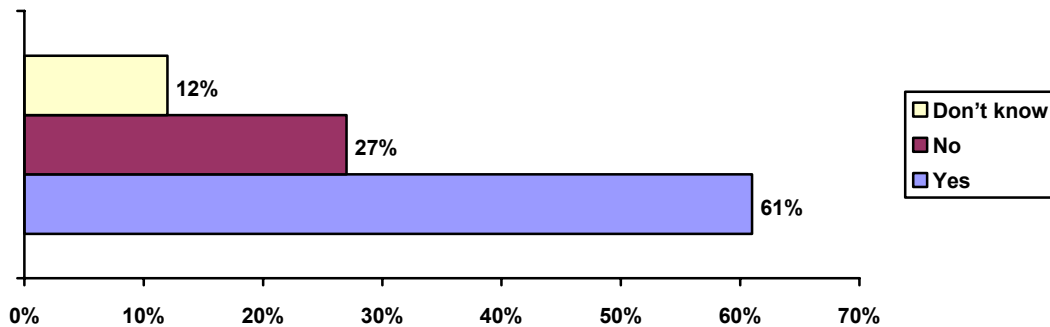


One way of increasing the supply of affordable housing in Argyll and Bute is to introduce an “Affordable Housing Planning Policy”. This means that where a need for affordable housing is identified, private developers will be required to make a proportion of houses and flats “affordable” as a condition of getting planning consent from the planning department. The affordable housing can either be for rent (through a Housing Association) or for sale. The proportion of new housing required to be affordable will depend on the location and capacity of the development, but will normally be around 25%.

Sixty one percent of respondents believe that private developers should have the responsibility for providing more affordable housing. A further 27% do not believe this should be the case and 12% don't know.

Do you think that private developers should have the responsibility for providing more affordable housing?

Yes	61%
No	27%
Don't know	12%



A variety of additional comments were made regarding affordable housing in Argyll and Bute, some of which are outlined below. A full list of comments can be found in the appendices.

- Do the Council and private developers share a level playing field?
- While there is a shortage of rented accommodation allow large grants to individual landlords in that way more will come into the market place and that will increase the amount of rented accommodation
- Affordable housing is all very well in the ideal world, but we really need Council rented premises that are well kept, in an area where the people feel safe. Many are looking for a respectable lifestyle to bring up their children but, still cannot afford to buy – why should we pack them into third rate housing, in run down scheme where trouble is a part of life.
- With the knowledge I have, I limit myself to commenting only on Rothesay. I welcome much of the new-build (except the always going to be problematic retail units) but think it is time to focus on the existing buildings in the town centre. Some are in a very bad state and require either compulsory repair orders to be served or monies to be found for demolition. The problem will not go away.
- The council also has responsibility for ensuring adequate supply of low-cost land for building. I would like to see this done using the Norwegian public sector approach of inviting bids to supply building land – this tends to reduce cost/hectare

Care and Support

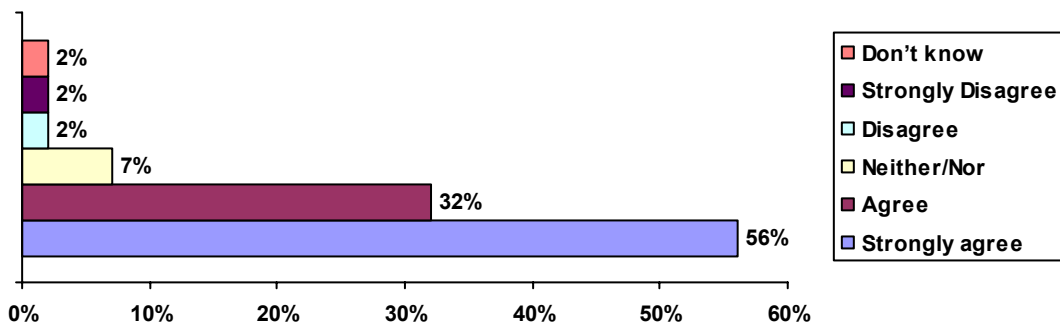
Helping people stay in their own homes or live in the community rather than in a hospital or other institutional setting depends not only on the design of their home but also on the care and support that they can receive at home. There are three types of care and support, namely housing care and support (help with how to pay bills or understand tenant responsibilities, etc.) personal care and support (help with shopping or cleaning, etc) and medical care and support (visits by trained nurses, etc).

Although care and support is particularly important for older people, there may also be other vulnerable people (such as people with a learning disability or a mental health problem) that may require some support to enable them to live independently. For many people who are homeless, the need for support is just as important as the need for somewhere to live. There is a recognition that we need to be better at assessing the overall needs of people who are seeking housing and that the provision of care and support packages should be improved.

Eighty eight percent of respondents agree that there is a need to increase the support available to enable people to stay in their own homes.

Do you agree that there is a need to increase the support available to enable people to stay in their own homes?

Strongly agree	56%
Agree	32%
Neither/Nor	7%
Disagree	2%
Strongly Disagree	2%
Don't know	2%



A variety of other comments were made by respondents regarding the issue of care and support. We have outlined some of these comments below, with a full list available in the appendices.

- Alongside the development of care and support there should be public education and awareness raising to involve all members of a community in supporting vulnerable people and reduce ostracising and discrimination
- Care and support can only work if you have staff, equipment supplies to fill the needs, medical back up on a regular basis and communication with relatives, giving them some responsibilities. There should be strong liaison between the various departments involved. Care in the home may be excellent or of a poor standard. Some independent relative or friend must be involved to prevent loneliness and isolation – the greater need of all.
- I do not think that it is fair that some people with Learning Difficulties are prioritised over normal people. I have a friend who has been on the housing list for four years and has no house, as there is none available. I have seen many drug abusers housed in this time.
- Assessment of need of support could be improved – the support is there but would be better targeted
- I think that at present services have greatly improved in this area, especially in Kintyre.
- The caring competence of all agencies should have a definite acceptable standard (i.e. not “training will be given on the job!”) The quality and quantity of care is often appalling due to lack of ability of carer (where it should be carers) time apportioned to each dependent person and cost to client. Motivation of local authority departments and those they employ should be re-assessed at all levels, also in the private sector.
- The whole ‘system’ is far too complicated
- Much appreciated having our house checked and made safer for two pensioners
- Could we have help for gardens and odd jobs – maybe voluntary - for OAP’s?

Finally, respondents were provided the opportunity to make any further comments on the Draft Local Housing Strategy. These comments included the following, with a full list available in the appendices.

- Why is soundproofing continually overlooked? Flats are dreadful prisons for people with disabilities...
- There should be a strategy to provide suitable houses for workers who spend all their working life in tied houses and need to be re-housed when they retire. Provision of more Sheltered Housing complexes
- I think that if more housing and care and help initiatives are to be introduced it must be done in conjunction with increased policing in the denser housing estates
- I'd like to see you being more specific in your aims. The wording is too loose.
- Worth considering how far housing shortage is caused by young people leaving home to set up house on their own?
- Here in Mull we have some of the most wonderful scenery in the world but we also have some diabolical looking housing. This is why other people do not want to live here! In short they feel their lives could be very spartan and they are right because the anti-environment crowd dominate decision making here. Builders and tradesmen just want to make money and care nothing about what they build. A & B do nothing about that 'ambience' here.
- Most development should be within existing settlements filling gap or brown field spaces. Close to amenities and services. It should not be built on existing green field sites and not enclose any recreational green spaces or parks
- I also think that landlords should either force tenants to keep houses and gardens in good and pleasant conditions. Looking round some rented homes there is strong evidence of neglect.
- The aims for Helensburgh are not clear in the plan that has been published so far. Places like Cardross have/having their population increasing out of size of the existing community
- An ideal way of holding Councils to ransom. Housing should always be in the remit of local Council and with an independent body made up of un-elected persons on the lines of Community Councils
- We can't complain about housing at all
- It was difficult to get the information without access to Internet. The documents are huge – should be split into areas (available separately)
- Strategy shows gross over provision of housing and development, destruction of green field areas and will cause planning blight over a wide area

2.5 Community Safety Issues for Argyll and Bute

Every year Strathclyde Police hold a public consultation exercise to discuss their priorities and to determine if the public have any areas of concerns or issues that they would like the Police to address.

The top 5 issues that respondents think are the most important and should be addressed first are as follows;

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Community Policing | 57% |
| 2. Vandalism | 52% |
| 3. Youth disorder | 47% |
| 4. Road safety | 47% |
| 5. Underage drinking | 39% |

Issues that respondents think are the most important and should be addressed first?

Community Policing	57%
Vandalism	52%
Youth disorder	47%
Road safety	47%
Underage drinking	39%
Violent crime	39%
Substance misuse	38%
Alcohol misuse	35%
Housebreaking	31%
Litter	25%
Domestic violence	25%
Car Crime	23%
Dog fouling	21%
Victim needs	14%

Respondents were asked to state how relevant a variety of issues are within Argyll and Bute. All of the issues asked about were identified by in excess of 70% of all respondents as being either fairly or very relevant.

Issues that 90% or more respondents thought of as being relevant were as follows;

- Community Policing
- Youth disorder
- Vandalism
- Road Safety

In order to ensure that Strathclyde Police continues to address issues that cause the most concern for residents, please indicate how relevant, if at all, you feel these previously identified issues still are for Argyll & Bute?

	Very Relevant	Fairly Relevant	Neither/ Nor	Not very Relevant	Not Relevant at all	Don't know
Community Policing	70%	23%	3%	2%	1%	1%
Youth disorder	65%	25%	6%	2%	0%	1%
Vandalism	65%	28%	3%	2%	0%	1%
Road Safety	62%	31%	5%	2%	0%	0%
Violent Crime	55%	28%	10%	5%	1%	2%
Substance misuse	54%	30%	8%	3%	0%	4%
Underage drinking	53%	36%	6%	3%	0%	1%
Alcohol Misuse	52%	37%	7%	3%	0%	1%
Housebreaking	47%	36%	11%	4%	0%	2%
Litter	46%	37%	10%	6%	1%	0%
Victim Needs	42%	36%	16%	3%	0%	3%
Domestic violence	41%	35%	11%	4%	1%	8%
Dog fouling	36%	39%	14%	6%	4%	1%
Car Crime	34%	44%	12%	6%	2%	2%

Issues that respondents feel have been missed include the following comments. A full list of comments can be found in the appendices.

- By community policing I do not mean police personnel driving round the town in a van. I accept that my priorities would be quite different if I lived in other parts of Strathclyde
- Breaking into business premises
- Scottish Parliament policies call on local authorities to be 'responsive to local needs' to have a wider sense of ownership and promote involvement rather than 'just consultation.' These questionnaires are an admirable start – but they are consultation – more involvement is needed
- It would appear that the upgrading and maintaining of Helensburgh front and promenade is given less importance than in other coastal towns in Argyll & Bute e.g. Dunoon and Rothesay. I consider this to be unfair discrimination

- Protection of Ambulance Crews and Health professionals – privatisation of Rapid Accessibility + Response
- Fairer sentencing between men and women/less people sent to prison more community service and helping the “criminal” to resolve other problems
- The inadequacy of planning people to get things right. At this moment in time – “The cart is before the horse and we will all suffer.
- With the demolition of a local poorly managed and rundown Hotel and self-catering units catering for low-cost accommodation seekers. We no longer suffer from drunken/noisy visitors to this establishment
- Punishment too light/needs further study
- More Police – so that everything becomes a priority
- In hamlets where there is no witness – one word against the other – violence/break-ins-damage/something should be done to help here. I know about it?
- Roads – Using speed cameras on all approach roads into Helensburgh
- Most crime in rural areas involves the over indulgence of alcohol. Perhaps preventative measures are needed – Upping the license fees to pubs etc.
- Clean the beach and don’t let dog owners use it as a dog Loo

Appendices

Open Ended Comments

Example Questionnaire

Open Ended Comments

Q1 Other

Questions 1 – 11 and 13 being substantially a repeat of the same numbers in the very first questionnaire of June 2001. I have only ticked the few boxes where there is any real difference in my response.

More needed from Community Council

Direct Mail from the Council

I have tried to understand what you require above, but to no avail. I have lived here 11 years and no organisation above has ever got in touch with me about anything. If the Council wants to tell me about a change in a service – or something new that's going on – they must not presume I buy a local paper every week – I don't. They would need to find a more direct method

I have a box that was given out a couple of years ago containing information on who to contact in the appropriate department. This is now a couple of years old but to make this book more widely available would be good

E-mail, when every person on Mull is online now

I would think that most services are not very well advertised and require a phone call to Kilmory to find out about – if I have ever had to do this I usually find them very helpful and I suggest a really great well advertised help line is as useful as anything. Community Councils are not a good way to impart information.

Libraries – not enough new books/Ambulance service stretched to maintain service to RAH hospital plans in a shambles

More Public Toilet facilities needed around the island

TV/Radio/Posters/Church Intimations

Newsletters

More frequent A & B council newsletters sent to every household

Q4 any other services that you want to mention. Please specify

Parking facilities for town residents – very dissatisfied

Care of the built environment: unsatisfactory

I have observed my own dwelling Waverley Court has not changed

Postal services should not be spending time in houses when among neighbours, and in charge of mail – dissatisfied with this. Free time or not (exclusive to this area) no wonder postage is so high

Libraries – provision for outlying areas is unsatisfactory

Recycling – could be improved by kerbside collections along with other refuse

Excessive increases in Council Tax

Our natural environment is hugely important yet it is littered with old cars, caravans and general untidiness

I note strange inconsistencies in planning department decisions and lack of use of powers, which the department has in Outstanding Conservation Area

Very concerned about the future for getting a GP after hours – our own GP is most concerned.

Postal deliveries – very satisfied

Sewerage in Iona village where septic tanks don't always exist. Raw sewerage is a problem round the jetty area

The need for elderly care home – so relatives can get to them 24 hours a day – especially in their last hours.

Street signs not satisfactory

Beach cleaning particularly west of pier

Sewage pong between Colquhoun lower street and aged sewage outlets on beach. This follows rain or very hot weather – disgusting!

Child cares provision for under 5s very dissatisfied

Public conveniences: unsatisfactory

Sewage – tanker does not have a long enough hose to reach our septic tank!

Very difficult to answer in the categories above. Life here for many has improved in material terms but there are more problems than before. On the other hand community spirit and social cohesion have, happily “stayed the same”

Important proposals for all major services particularly all areas surrounding provision of Health Care from birth until elderly care (i.e. changes of boundaries) should surely be discussed and debated with both client groups and all involved with dispensing of the actual service – why is communication so sparse?

Make it easier for recycling – bags for the bins

Newsletters

Beach maintenance – poor

Community Nurses – very satisfied/wonderful service/people

Q7 why do you say this?

New housing and more people moving in

Nothing done to improve appearances – roads badly in need of repair

Infrastructure and amenities have got worse overall. Some services (bus) and some areas (Elhenabeich) have improved

Despite improvements in some areas (local clean ups) other negative aspects have appeared (More vandalism more litter on streets etc.)

There is no affordable housing for young couples and families. The place is becoming a retreat for retired/elderly people

Only moved to Toward in Dec., 2003, however previous address – Johnston Terrace is a dump with drugs and non-caring elements moving in

No forward planning – too many short term fixes

Recycling facilities better, transport links improved and adult education

Council taxes continue to rise with no improvement in local services e.g. sports facilities. The improvement in change from Dumbarton to Argyll & Bute councils

Although some things have improved (e.g. recycling) the overall feeling in the town is that many problems are not being tackled

Escalating problems of nuisance/vandalism by youth section of community

Many people fear change

There has been business and housing expansion

I don't really see things any better since we have moved into Argyll & Bute. We still stay at Council Tax Providers for the old originally Argyll and the Islands

A few more shops have opened!

Nothing maintained i.e. road, schools and no future planning

Roads a disgrace/not enough attention paid to grassy areas, roadside verges, toilets, graffiti, lighting – the Council seems to have given up

Cars (including my own) are regularly vandalised. Teenage hooligans wander the streets during the night.

Housing has improved especially for young single people/amenities stayed the same
Helensburgh has deteriorated in the 10 years I have lived here. Has a rundown look about it now. Youth crime has increased as has other crime
Ardbeg Distillery opening
Many empty shops and more litter
No external influence
Fish farms are out of control – F.E. land is like Armagedden. Despite the importance of our visual appearance we pay no attention whatsoever to visual pollution
Roads are deteriorating; large influx of not catered for tourists, large influx of retired people who do not try to improve the area and don't really try to support it. "NIMBYS"
Some shops have closed so we have to travel to get the same things or they are not available. Bowmore Hall might close so another amenity would be lost
Derelict and redundant buildings left standing instead of being demolished
Too many holiday homes and no affordable housing for the community
Helensburgh area used as 'milch cow' for Argyll
Lack of employment has led to families moving out of the village. Inward movement is for retirement only leading to an unbalanced population structure
Houses and flats built in all our green patches along our Main Street
Intrusive development and failure of the Council to insist on planning requirements being met.
A number of businesses have closed and only Vestas are the new business in the area
Better childcare – community policing is better
Increased anti-social behaviour and absence of Police on the beat. Poorer GP and hospital provision
No changes to the area, no new buildings, services etc.
Apart from National Park status – potential still to be seen
Lack of dynamic economic activity too much reliance on public sector, stifling of economic activity by environmental organisations SNH, SEPA and too many subsidies to agriculture.
Have not lived here for long enough to tell you!
More vandalism, more youths hanging around and more attacks on people
Improved slightly, mainly elderly couples, lacks young couples with Children to help village economy
Road repairs
It has improved in a few respects and got worse in others e.g. the state of the Park and roads and pavements and the increase in vandalism
More houses but no facilities
People are generally more prosperous. The roads and trains I use regularly have greatly improved
There is nothing to do for the teenagers
New building
Roads get worse. General environment worse/ crime on the increase and less policing
Very few leisure facilities
Roads, pavements, schools, public buildings, seafront at Helensburgh all require attention
Nothing gets done – too many enquiries
Bus service very poor, only good if you live on main road, beautiful Horse Chestnut tree cut so far back it is an eyesore.
Conditions of the roads
Higher standard of maintenance of buildings. Most though not yet all of the properties which were in a bad way in the village have been renovated
Roads and pavements in a dreadful condition

Access to countryside, some elements improved – e.g. look of areas of town centre others become rundown – swimming pool, empty shops, trouble in town
Some improvement but more trouble in town at night - drunkenness
Not much financial support given to Helensburgh compared to other areas
Retailers are not adventurous and complacent
Helensburgh frontage is underdeveloped and an eyesore
No one has grasped the concept of development, but retention of character
There has not been any improvement in the town
No changes in roads, schooling, rail etc. over the last few years – still no pavements or lights
Hotel/Village Shop and Golf Course/Clubhouse are all much better than five years ago
Lack of investment in the area
Just an overall feeling – everyone is always talking of re-development and big plans, but nothing ever happens
I'm not sure that 'improved' is the right word, but population increasing dramatically with new skills, etc. coming to Island. Also more older people needing more care – good for employment
It has changed but too early to say if it is better or worse
More empty shops, more litter and vandalism, more loutish behaviour, expansion of housing, invasion of green areas/ health care harder to access
We do have new shops but need more
No great improvements/no more leisure/educational facilities/no library/mobile cinema and poor transport
New building works
Time to get to ferries quicker/businesses more variety/visitor attractions
Sewage system, amenities, general planning services
I say this because of the fact that the children in the area are very undisciplined and are causing problems and their parents do not seem to care.
Bad planning and unheeding in respect of character and natural assets of area. Permission given without thought of layout or affect on residents and businesses. Forethought for future development under needs and individual areas not taken into account.
Poor input to business incentives via A/E etc.
The boating pond was repaired at great expense but no water – why?
Influx of people from other areas where they are not wanted causing damage and disruption to what used to be a very safe town
Grouping houses together – in the country houses should be far apart – should be farming only. Post Office shop has gone because holiday homes
There are ongoing developments in housing and business in the town
The area is spoiled by the number of people coming to live and taking employment from locals and making housing impossible to buy
Worse in some areas (e.g. closed community centre) better in others (e.g. beach cleaning, library services)
People with cash have bought all the houses
Badly thought out Housing Development
Work carried out by residents under the control of local residents association
Main shop shut
More recreational facilities, better fire service
More facilities and attempts to provide facilities
Static caravans, stables and paddocks, illegal driveways are all appearing in private gardens and nobody appears to be able to do anything about it.

The town is dirty. It is also subject to vandalism. The seafront has been neglected. For example, the pier that was the centre of attraction is in disrepair. The beach is dirty it is no longer cleaned. The town does not get its fair share of funds from A & B
Too many holiday cottages and not enough full time residencies used
Gradual improvement in buildings – not sure about wall construction – mess just now, hopefully public gardens get better year by year. Five stars to gardeners
No obvious physical change, unlike Inverness or Fort William
For a while we had a bad problem with drugs but everything is okay now
Vandalism increased/roads badly kept/pavements unclean/roads unsalted in bad weather
Crime has increased
Socially more problem – people are less disciplined
Environment has deteriorated
Crime has got worse
Service providers (except the bin men) have become remote
General services appear more rundown, streets appear dirtier, and roads a patchwork of mending, increased street crime and traffic congestion, less healthy care available locally
Better services for elderly/disabled – more supported housing – local bus service improved
Thanks to the efforts of voluntary group – Environkirk, for the most part New Street Lighting has also improved the village
Better ferry services – transport and delivery services
In spite of minor changes it seems much the same
Lack of facilities e.g. Toilets, Parking
The swimming pool area in Helensburgh has still not been updated. The sea front is cleaner, the beach is cleaner but it is not attractive enough for tourists
Very little has been done to tidy up the area
There is little or no special provision for youth, elderly, sick residents or those with disabilities!
Loss of Ireland ferry is a minus, Vestas is a plus
Little and Large in overall situation, because though it has improved in some respects (notably employment) it has worsened in others (medical services, road maintenance, chance of ferry)
Things could not have got much worse when Jaeger closed in our area. Vesta's opened at Machrihanish and created much-needed "jobs". The initiative of Wind farms helped the local economy
Post Offices closed/increased traffic on badly maintained roads that are still unlit with no pavements, no speed limits and constant flooding. Restricted Bus Service
Road surface/lighting on Main Road lots better. No other major improvements though.
New houses including association housing, Community Council active/flower tubs/car park/bus shelter/new sewage scheme planned and essential pavement repair.
Generation after generation of children repeat the behaviour of their parents – socially destructive imprinting of biased opinions
It seems to take a very long time to take action and authorities seem only to agree when presented with no alternative e.g. Templeton House, Hermitage School
Nothing has been done to improve the area. The old jetty that was used by the family is breaking up and is a danger to tourists. The road drainage ditches are overgrown
The release of Toxic materials into the atmosphere. Councillors unable to do the job they are paid for, hence my opening remarks.
Provision of pavements and footpaths/attempt to improve seafood
I think vandalism has increased

Place has become more run down. New people who move in don't understand the place and try and impose their values. Less community activity. Much less village atmosphere.

As a tourist area, we cannot compete with Spain, Cyprus etc. Value for money and weather.

Also no new industry

Unfortunately many of the new people who have moved to my area do not give the place the respect it deserves. Also the quality of local councillors is now very poor.

Because we still do not have pavements outside our home

Thanks to Environkirk the village has improved. However the eyesores still remain The

Queens Hotel and empty/rundown shops

Better facilities for sport (pool etc.) greater variety of shops, local bus service, development of forestry walks; picnic areas

Q8 other issues

I have ticked a lot of neither/nor as I don't see these specific to A & B what is important is to promote quality in essential areas (services) and I don't see it

Transport by Air

Provision of crematorium on West Coast as graveyards rapidly fill up

Anti-vandalism protection required action to prevent e.g. more for youth to do

The islands need more recreational facilities for the children

Farming – food should be produced at home – fresher and save traffic. Better scenery instead of unusual land

A greater respect and awareness of people with physical disabilities and their needs

Public owned buildings should be properly maintained. Some are an eyesore. Council would soon step in if privately owned buildings were left to rot.

It would benefit all of us and the economy, if Argyll and Bute Council were to use the following terms under all its public images. 'Britain Eco Friendly Council.'

Visit Scotland "Should not dictate to area Tourist Boards or Associate Organisations e.g.

Holiday Mull

All these issues are equally important – lack of any one of them would cause damage to the balance of the whole

Where possible older people should be encouraged to pay their own care – they should not expect it as a right – and yet they can do so, even when they can afford it – I have seen this.

This general right takes valuable funds away from the poor and needy

Integration of policy across departments – recycling, waste management

Under the wording of "environment" the development of alternative renewal energy resources (wind, tide, and water) are surely of the greatest importance for the future.

Holiday homes – too many houses lying empty. Planning – building goes on but without enough concern for environment and infrastructure.

Affordable housing for young local families

The cost of living in remote/island communities

High cost of transport, fuel and ferries. Tourism does not provide year round economic activity

The use of the river for transport. Pedestrianisation of town centres. Frontage of Helensburgh to be pedestrianised. New road to be built. How wonderful to have a traffic free promenade from Sinclair Street/William Street

Careful sympathetic housing development. Get rid of brown field eyesores. Embrace the IT/technological advances. Promote home working. Enlarge and enhance beach facilities

New technologies – IT primary resources/wind/wave/marine

Q11 is there any other priorities that you think should be included

As our population becomes increasingly elderly I feel we need not only to care for that part of our make-up with issues such as health, security etc. However, we also need to encourage families and young people, as providers of wealth to fund the care package increasingly needed. Particularly families' interests tie in greatly with the elderly, health, security, and a pleasant safe attractive environment. effective anti-social behaviour policies etc. My area appears to cost more for less, with issues such as safety and health not being addressed. No one wants to live, work or invests in rundown unsafe areas

Because Argyll & Bute is so remote and rural – transport issues are essential in being prioritised and otherwise other 3 areas above are more difficult to achieve

Facilities for teenagers

Housing for young native people who want to work and live in area. At present young men with no children and married couples with no children never have a chance of a house. Keeping and even adding to the forestry of Argyll as this is a sustainable resource and provides jobs.

Maintaining Argyll's natural beauty/coastline/lochs/woodland and forests/mountains all add to the natural beauty

Mis-use of the blue badge scheme needs much addressing

Car parks/disabled bays/street layouts are not designed by disabled people (It's us who know)

Recycling is not adequate – households should all have bins for paper, plastic, glass and metal

Access – roads and ferries

Developments to Tourism which, will lead in turn to new business and more jobs and prosperity to the area. Standards of service need to improve to match those in other countries e.g. Canada and New Zealand

Continued effort to combat vandalism litter and anti-social behaviour: all of these being detrimental to local residents and to attracting visitors

I think the Council should move very carefully about overrunning the Green areas around the bigger population areas and offer better less expensive living and housing in country districts. Attention to road and transport to support the above activities

More police officers stationed in Helensburgh. More car owners fined for parking illegally

Better policing and more importantly the cracking down on Alcohol and drug misuse!

Promotion of rural areas as bases for e-commerce/home working via the Internet (including access to Broadband technology.)

The whole Argyll & Bute machinery should get behind educating young and old regarding the value of our world renowned - natural environment. I think that the Council needs an Eco Tourism Group because Eco Tourism means business and it has a big future!

Promoting fishing industry for Scotland

Total rethink of our Tourism facilities. The town promotes itself as a holiday area, but is sadly lacking in amenities. This could also lose opportunities in Hotel & Retail Industry.

We are very concerned that the NHS Argyll & Bute are developing the health care partnership from Cardross & Helensburgh to become part of the Argyll & Bute Community Partnership.

This will only lead to a deterioration of services and an increasing remoteness for the local community from the provision of healthcare.

Housing is becoming a serious issue particularly here in Mull. We have an extremely unbalanced population and the island is becoming a combination of geriatric ward and rich-man's hideaway. The popular "Balamory" programme has brought renewed interest and there are many visitors not catered for.

Drink and drugs-related issues – seems to be increasing
Underage drinking leading to vandalism – on the increase (both are police issues as well as local community/education issues.)
Crime/vocational training
Leisure facilities
Affordable housing
Transport - affordable and appropriate
Tourism to be encouraged year round – would help job situation
Health/crime/environment and transport
Leisure and cultural activities are very patchy throughout Argyll and Bute. Some areas have been neglected – particularly Lomond and Helensburgh. The latter has the highest density of A & B's population, yet is particularly poorly served for leisure and recreational activities – especially for young people.
The tourist industry needs more of a financial and training boost – e.g. better quality B & B's and Hotels and restaurants opening in the evening
Improving the transport infrastructure and reducing the cost of ferry transport that is crippling the economy of the islands.
An enabling and pro-active policy towards agriculture and fish farming development, by 2015 + 65% of our fish will be farmed and Argyll is ideally placed to take advantage of this long term growth and derive the economic and social benefits of them
Improving Police presence in Cardross/building sports facilities
These are very worthy objectives but I am concerned that the schools are unloading so many young people who are not sufficiently literate or numerate to be employable. It is clearly very expensive to have to continue to provide basic skills for employment.
The Council should be providing more affordable housing, many young people simply cannot get onto the housing ladder because house prices are too high
There are not enough three and four bedroom houses in our area for people to buy
Many Council houses, are occupied by one person living in two or three bedroom houses.
The Council should provide an incentive for people in this situation to move to a smaller house to free up the bigger houses
Improving ferry links and timetables. More attention for recreational facilities for the children.
More affordable housing to encourage young families to stay on the islands
Ferry service between Campbeltown and Ballycastle`
More help given to small business on their way or less Red Tape, Rate Rebate and stupid courses from (Mid-Argyll & Kintyre- Islay Div. Licensing Board (Fit & Proper Licensees.) It is highway robbery to charge £80.00 to someone who is third generation license trade over 30 year's experience in Argyll to sit an examination
Much more help and places for alcohol and drug misuse. Also a place, such as a home for dementia patients which is very widespread in Argyll. Campbeltown could do with a home purposely for these people
Improving road quality and safety
Drug education/community care
Tourism/Road Improvement
Roads are appalling – repair a must
There is too much emphasis in A & B on health, caring etc. and not enough on serious job creation and building in existing industries. At the end of the day if there were more well paid jobs and it was easier to make decent money in the place, there would be plenty left over to do the other things
Access – ferry services etc.

Oban hospital to stay open as it is now! With good maternity care too – (not going to Glasgow!)

Promoting a strong, robust sustainable economy – good jobs good wages!

The dangerous levels of Toxic materials deposited in Argyll – Oban in particular/that is either hidden or lies in tips. Materials that is not being taken up by specialists. I include in this sewage pipe crossing drinking water pipes, which are deteriorating rapidly

Transport to/from hospitals/general transport/libraries/mobile cinema

All weather sports facilities/Tourism/a proper yachting Marina facility in Campbeltown and Oban

Crime and anti-social behaviour

Saving Argyll's hospital services

Public transport to and from hospital

Maintaining and improving roads. Keeping available all community halls and maintaining same

Promoting tourism, business and employment prospects for school leavers who are not going on to Higher [Education](#).

Encouraging tourism and providing facilities for this

Health concerns over raw sewage disposal/chlorine in the drinking water/possible sight for Toxic Store (Nuclear dump)

Ferry service to Ireland

Prompt completion of the new Swimming Pool etc.

Enabling the local doctors to provide services that will promote wellbeing and good health by obtaining bigger and better premises without having to underwrite the costs themselves.

Get rid of Argyll & Bute Council – a complete waste of space, make Bute independent Council – lower water, sewage, Council Rates

Business will follow along with jobs

Numbers 14-18 – Development Plan

Farming – cultivate land most important - too many trees – better to import timber – do not give planning permission for holiday homes – help rural Post Offices – shops – schools.

Do something about Calmac (lack of information – phones not answered)

I feel that support agencies such as social work and voluntary support agencies for various health problems etc. (e.g. carers centre) should also be high priorities for Argyll & Bute

Improved affordable housing for young people. Not only authority housing, but shared tenancy, rent to buy, subsidised to encourage people to stay in the area

Tighter control on planning within the National Park area

Tourism – not just “bus parties” and encouraging people to live and remain in the area

The tourist Board should ensure that tourists are informed that Mull is a working community of farmers and fishermen and forestry and not just a playground

Emphasis: affordable homes to enable native villagers to remain, if they wish, in their own village

Youth Crime and petty vandalism

Good health services kept in all areas

More Police are needed to combat crime and anti-social behaviour.

More funds should be available for Helensburgh, for example ring-fence money when assets belong to the town, to enable a Community Centre to be built: a sports' facility for all ages and other benefits such as Oban, Dunoon and Rothesay enjoy.

Preservation of our Architectural Heritage, Clyde Street School an excellent example of A. Paterson's work should be preserved instead of being left to deteriorate further. Stop asset stripping.

Tourism is important to the town, but funds are needed to improve facilities for visitors. Under cover facilities for wet weather are necessary for the further deterioration in weather which is prophesised

Brown-site housing should be upgraded. Second property owners should have rents capped and they should pay full community tax on second homes.

Ferry fares are prohibitive for family trips especially by car

Lack of pursers on ferries would I think, cause chaos on busy weekends or jazz motorsport
Tourism

Reducing deprivation and disadvantage/greater community participation/consultation

Much clearer view of how A & B works politically as the leadership is anonymous and local politics is dismal

Promoting health should include tackling drug and alcohol misuse.

Health in Helensburgh area requires the Vale of Leven hospital to be our hospital to meet local needs effectively

There is little or no sense of A & B operating confidentially and well

Argyll & Bute accommodation is poor and staff does not engender confidence

Therefore it is not surprising services are poor and that there is little that can be done to improve them more the loss of confidence in the Council is huge

Promoting and developing opportunities of local employment seems to be the most important task for government, local and national. Jobs, which simply accelerate the drift to towns, will probably exacerbate all the other problems. What we need is the means to work and earn a decent living wage, where we live - a scattered but not necessarily fragmented population.

How to reduce it is another matter

Crime/Alcohol and drug misuse/re cycling paper/plastics/glass etc.

Marketing the benefits of living and working in the area through – promotion of new business (including IT) – better transport links (including water links) – A 10 year plan to improve waterfronts

Q13 Are there any other important issues that you think should be included in these priorities?

The targets for recycling are lower than Kirklees (West Yorks.) were 5 years ago when I lived there. And far below the targets achieved in the Netherlands ten years ago where I also lived. My bin should not be full each week as most could be recycled. However there is no comprehensive recycling in my area Rhu despite it being available in Helensburgh. Recycling creates jobs, wealth, improves environment and gives a sense of refuse awareness and ownership of community to individuals.

I think that the council should take strong measures to police and prevent private cars and small vans from constantly breaking speed limits through out the Council's area especially in Helensburgh and its environs.

As I live in Cardross I feel we are going to lose our village identity with the building projects which are forecast for the coming months. We have been landed with a Cala estate that is an eyesore and another Brookside. If affordable housing is required let them build in Old Argyll not Lomond

Second home owners are damaging Argyll. My village has 50% - second homes

Provide both support for children with disability who don't have access to facilities and children with some problems have in urban areas.

Provide support to adult disabled people and help them achieve employment and independence.

Definition of adequate housing? – Cheap flats are being thrown up ten a penny, and they are not adequate – dreadful sound proofing, irresponsible allocation of tenants and no authoritative role by housing association landlords to ensure neighbour respect and consideration etc.

More thought going into projects, i.e. the waste/refuse facility at the top of Sinclair Street could have been vastly improved due to it being the first thing as one approaches Helensburgh. The railings should have been setback several feet and trees planted in front to eventually "hide" the waste facility.

Supporting and promoting community based cultural clubs and societies (e.g. drama, music etc.)

Community policing – possible community police wardens in housing schemes

Growth and development in Argyll and Bute needs to be reasonable and appropriate for each area e.g. green fields should not be developed when there are derelict brown field sites near bye

Tourism is our most important industry and brings benefit to everyone. Scotland/Argyll & Bute needs a dedicated Eco Tourism Brochure to enable visitors to enjoy their experience here even more than they do. We need this document to 'spin' the whole tourism experience in our region. This will hold for more people in the area. Mull should also be at the centre of a Land and Marine National Park.

Again tourism could lead to more people choosing to live and work in Argyll

Hospitals – enhance them to satisfy local needs. Stop the fragmentation and provide care where it is needed. Argyll & Bute is huge geographically. We do not want to travel miles to get to hospital at different times of the day

Promote links with other countries

Fairer ferry timetables

None of the above issues can be addressed without the necessary finance, there already exists an enormous problem with Council Tax, which seems to be beyond the skills of our politicians to manage successfully. We need radical changes at a national level in order to succeed, otherwise this is just so much pie in the sky. Let us add another "issue" to the list above i.e. Action, not words

Provide hospitals to address health/well-being issues

It is difficult to disagree with these fine statements but they are very airy fairy. It is the "how" that matters. It should be accepted that if one chooses to live in a remote area it is always going to be more difficult to access all services. In the meantime could we have potholes and pavements seen to.

The Council is not doing enough to encourage recycling there should be separate collection from houses of glass, cans, paper, garden waste etc.

Dog fouling is a major problem in our area. More needs to be done about this. Possibly more dog wardens

Not necessarily but the above should be throughout A & B not just certain areas

I don't think that the current system of conveying information to small communities and getting feedback from the works very well. Usually, at least in our Village, bodies such as Argyll & Bute, police etc. work through the Community Council. However nobody goes to CC meetings and information never gets passed on. I feel bodies should make more of an effort to get through to people – even forming small local groups of interested people, to make better contact on specific issues.

Accessibility will deteriorate if the local hospital services move to Paisley

Environmental issues regarding farming practices.

Cultural issues – accessibility to the “arts”/adequate funding for the arts/better support for our key economic activities e.g. farming, forestry, tourism, fisheries – all of the above must be sustainable.

Once again – Roads!

Discipline in the schools and control of pupils over lunchtimes

I have not answered first question I don't think the council should provide more houses I think the council should consider helping young locals to purchase houses that come on the market. With the influx of people moving in these areas are not going to have enough employment. A few families already are on benefits!

Provide more rented houses – not ownership as they only get sold for holiday homes

Recognise Helensburgh's unique urban and different position in A & B, Helensburgh contributes most and receives least of the funds from A & B

If the quality of local politician does not improve on the quality of paid servants i.e. Council officers etc. does not improve them. I believe, within 10 years there will be no Argyll, as we know it.

More decisions should be taken by local councillors A & B headquarters and too few officials live in Helensburgh, therefore they are not aware of the town's needs

More could be done, perhaps, to encourage and inform local interest in archaeological sites. There are very numerous and only some are under official care – there probably is not funding available to look after more than a fraction of sites. But possibly with encouragement, local communication could at long last, do something – fencing, provision of notices, information sheets and so forth – to increase knowledge of and care for what is often almost literally on our doorstep.

The problems of a kind of “ownership” of public provision particularly in housing would hopefully promote more careful tenanting and less vandalism. There are many respectable people overwhelmed by the mere possibility of their public sector housing neighbours.

Regarding services to rural areas – the state of roads in these areas, and especially the islands, are not conducive to improved transport or services. This is an area that needs to be addressed and improved to make the above issues viable, and to, make life less difficult for those in fragile rural areas.

Much rubbish included in these Consultations. Renewable energy is too expensive, an eyesore, noisy and a blot on the Landscape, electricity generated by it. Cost more than nuclear power. Present tidal solutions a costly joke – my disbelief at calling an impeller a turbine sums up the level of ignorance regarding so called “wind turbines” most waste management solutions are costly and waste more energy than they save

Improving the skills base of young people and older unemployed in that they believe they can learn in their remote areas and improve self-belief so they can become contributing members of locality: Belief + skills acquisition – leading to local jobs (need plumbers, electricians, builders, joiners etc)

Ensure all communities have a functioning community centre for all ages, day and evening

Decline in services for maternity patients

Marketing what we have got and the rest of Scotland/UK

Q15 if you disagree with this goal, please give an alternative or describe how you would like it to change?

The above draft is too ambiguous and inconclusive, too vague, it appears to make changes from the local plan that will be detrimental to the ethos of the town: the ethos that brings people to the town in the first place

With the promise that “good quality, affordable accommodation does not imply the development of unimaginative properties built in the styles of traditional Scottish architecture of the last century – much favoured by “planners”. Everything moves on – even locally sponsored housing!

In our village six houses are being built. Several young village people wished to buy but now only one is sold and the builder “McLeod” is going to let 5 similar homes to holiday homes. I am afraid that, due to people’s greed, affordable housing is more likely to be bought as an investment and soon sold on at a profit. It seems to me that housing for lesser mortals can only be retained for their use by renting. The working wage for a lot of the of the lower paid is only £200 to £300 and buying a house, especially if there is a family would be nearly impossible

In the local plan you indicate a provision of 260,000 new houses over 10 years, how do you equate this with nearly 50% of houses going for holiday accommodation in rural areas
Come to Cardross and have a look at the Cala estate. The houses are so close you can nearly shake hands with your neighbour standing at your back door. There are 3 huge blocks of flats at the side of the Main Road. I believe planning permission was given for 3 storeys, how come they get away with it – something far wrong with local government and planning departments

We need tourism accommodation more than general housing at present because without the fuel for the economy we will not need more houses.

We have the worst housing in Britain here on the West Coast and all visitors comment on that. If, we need more housing then this should be in pockets and in places that are currently eyesores like Craignure on Mull. I would like to see a top architect create mini colourful Tobermory type terraced developments for all. These would improve the visual appearance rather than damage if further

To ensure controlled symbiotic growth in affordable housing through – extensive use of brown field areas/removal of old Grade 2 listed buildings that are too costly to maintain/improve
Protecting water’s edge and the green belt

The statement is too vague and infers that all areas require more and more housing. This is not the case and statistics have been shown to support that.

The ultimate goal is admirable but the ways of moving forward towards this goal need to be carefully planned and controlled

People need good quality affordable housing, communities need to develop but densification of towns and communities/use of brown field sites/upward development should happen before green fields are built over

The ultimate goal is admirable but the ways of moving forward towards this goal need to be carefully planned and controlled

Amount of housing provided by Council etc. should be limited to urban in-fill and small controlled developments with use of green field areas kept to a minimum

People need good quality affordable housing. Communities need to develop but densification of towns and communities/use of brown field sites/upward development should happen before green fields are built over

But at what cost?

The area on the front, the best size for a Heritage Centre/Museum and Visitor Centre: the site necessary for Pier improvement is marked for Retail, this is unacceptable. There is already a Centre for commercial and retail on the North side of the river; there are already empty shops available. The treat of a supermarket on the pier site does not encourage Retailers to come to the town. Tourist to the town, mostly day-trippers come from areas where they have a choice of supermarkets, swimming, skating, and games areas etc.

If the solution to housing rests upon either a. – the Council and b – the Housing Association they both seem to operate together even having Councillors on Housing Association Board – a conflict of interest. Giving good public housing stock to Housing Association, which has Councillors on board. Situation stinks to me – more private development is needed and less land grabbing by Council and Fyne Homes

Rented houses – to people who work in Argyll Houses should not be used for holiday lets, villages and towns are the only places for expansion – never hamlets – houses only on good roads.

How do they propose doing this?

If planning had been done correctly there would be adequate sewage for all time but, owing to local 'Maffias' this will not happen. Probably there will be 100 new houses and no sewage apart from local urns and septic tanks, in this day and age – No!

Q18 Are there any big issues or problems that you think we have missed out? If so, please specify

Council Tax

There is a huge problem of houses being sold as holiday homes. This should be discouraged, perhaps on higher council tax or charges so local people can find homes at an affordable price.

Creating 'areas' for the like-minded people to live, families/kids together, not sticking single, disabled folk into noisy housing schemes. Smaller dwelling communities, more personal and friendly – similar types – careful selection.

Resources and advice to owners/tenants in existing housing that falls well short of energy efficiency targets

Grants should not be means tested for people who pay Council Tax – more attention to repairing older houses – more attention to repairing older houses – no grants for tourism to build houses to let. Think of people who live and work in the area

Policing of misuse of disabled parking facilities /theft of blue badges or misuse thereof

Providing good communal living accommodation for these vulnerable people who cannot live independently

Run down private sector housing and buildings

Unsociable neighbours

There should be a movement away from scattered housing developments in rural Argyll because the pre-fab mentality has already done great damage to Mulls visual appearance. And this is VITAL to the economy

I think you need to be more specific in your aims. They all sound good, but are like political manifestos instead of solid, achievable "Smart" targets.

Proper resources needed at all times to help vulnerable – not just to pay lip service

Planning considerations – Argyll is a beautiful country and there is far too much poorly, designed housing allowed. Your goals will require new housing to be built. It will be good for everyone if it is well designed and fits into the landscape and existing housing of the area

Encouraging the redevelopment of brown-field sites/Ensuring housing projects do not infringe on the quality of our environment i.e. density, water's edge, green-belt, height

I think there is a need for investment in the social rented housing sector. Where out-of-date poor quality buildings cause problems for the tenants and discourage pride and enterprise.

There has evolved a 'ghetto' problem of social deprivation, substance abuse, poor maintenance and anti social behaviour

Increase Housing choice

All the above are vital but only with the conditions expressed in (15) above – careful planning and controlled planning. Argyll & Bute continues to need the Citizens Advice Bureaux as a totally independent source of up to date advice/information

Enabling Independent living for the vulnerable

Addressing the homelessness in Argyll & Bute

Empowering communities

Building strong safe communities

Concerns over care in the community being used not to enable but to cut costs (vulnerable people)

Purchase of holiday homes at inflated prices/business rates very high for salary levels/average salary well below national level

There should always be some affordable housing for rent for those unable or unwilling to buy

Increasing Council Tax on second homes and encouraging the subdivision of good houses too large for contemporary needs

All listed buildings should be given grants or financial assistance if they enhance the area and owners or residents are finding difficulty in sustaining. Certain legislation should be enforced if obvious neglect by residents/owners is causing deterioration. Certain buildings that have become beyond repair through age should be pulled down and new housing built. There are many houses of that category. This would leave room for affordable flats/maisonettes and encourage young people to come into the communities

You cannot achieve many of the objectives unless planning also supports them

Individual officers have stated that they are against socially rented houses being provided and opposed these developments

Allowing derelict properties to continue to deteriorate – especially in “Conservation Areas” pay less attention to “Planning Permission” for windows, driveways etc. and enforce repairs or sale of the eyesores

Provision for singles accommodation

Making sure local people feel they don't have to leave the area. We want to preserve our heritage not see it completely ruined by the ever growing number of houses being built by incomers.

The Council has done nothing to improve the area other than to drive out business with too high rates. Suggest you save a third of Admin. Jobs in Council

Q22 Do you have any additional comments to make on affordable housing in Argyll & Bute?

There is a great lack of standard housing in this area. Lots of small houses and flats. Lots of large houses and flats. We need more medium size accommodation both for families who are growing and for older people who would like to downsize without having to use all their savings as house prices go up

Community housing projects should be encouraged

Only that there does not seem to be a way of stopping cheaper houses being soon sold on..

My personal experience is as follows:- affordable, cheaply built = Riff Raff element moving to area = area down grades rapidly = decent people have to move out = vicious circle of nice places becoming Hell-holes! This was my reality!

I think that more responsibility should be taken by Housing Associations & Council in collection of rents and Council Tax and more funds would be available

My problem with this is that we struggle to move forward here because people do not want real work. The work ethic is very bad. If this were improved people would be able to afford their own home. I think there is too much charity here.

The government should support Councils to provide affordable housing. Developers want profit, naturally, and prices on rents go beyond the purpose of building them. There could be a tendency to have small ghettos of “singles.” This should not be encouraged. A mixture of house sizes, flats etc, should not be encouraged. A mixture of house sizes, flats etc. should ensure mixed communities – families too need affordable housing

As long as holiday homes are freely available there will be little affordable housing. If second homes were heavily taxed there might not be such demand. The other advantage of heavily taxing holiday homes would be to generate much more money for other services

Affordable housing in the correct locations with easy access to services, shops, Hotels, ferries not miles down single-track roads via development plan for Colintrave, right idea but wrong location

Adopt a “Channel Islands” type solution for holiday areas with insider and outsider designated properties.

To encourage young people to stay in the area they were brought up in, if they wish, ratio rather than richer incomes

Policies of private developers will be taken care of by market forces. Planning permission should demand details of prior surveys in justification of development.

What a pity the affordable housing stock has, been reduced by ‘selling on’ of ex-council houses!

Do the Council and private developers share a level playing field?

Sanitation

While there is a shortage of rented accommodation allow large grants to individual landlords in that way more will come into the market place and that will increase the amount of rented accommodation

Affordable housing is all very well in the ideal world, but we really need Council rented premises that are well kept, in an area where the people feel safe. Many are looking for a respectable lifestyle to bring up their children but, still cannot afford to buy – why should we pack them into third rate housing, in run down scheme where trouble is a part of life.

With the knowledge I have, I limit myself to commenting only on Rothesay. I welcome much of the new-build (except the always going to be problematic retail units) but think it is time to focus on the existing buildings in the town centre. Some are in a very bad state and require either compulsory repair orders to be served or monies to be found for demolition. The problem will not go away.

In relation to Q21, the council also has responsibility for ensuring adequate supply of low-cost land for building. I would like to see this done using the Norwegian public sector approach of inviting bids to supply building land – this tends to reduce cost/hectare

In the Helensburgh/Comona area, the MOD will most probably release more housing for use by the general public in the near future. Argyll & Bute should wait – and take this into consideration when planning future housing supply

Make it more expensive and difficult to own a holiday home. This, artificially inflates the cost of buying a home in Argyll & Bute

If more employment available with same salaries as the mainland, then housing and property values would equalise with the mainland. Thus giving the whole community a new lease of life. Better standards for everyone.

On Mull land not used for agriculture could be used to build affordable homes thus helping farmers and crofters, the forestry commission could also release some of their land at reasonable prices also in some areas of Argyll the M.O.D has a lot of land

Carradale needs more houses for Elderly on ground level especially 2 Bedrooms, so as a relative could sleep if needed

Release more land for private and Council/public development

At the moment housing in Argyll & Bute, or parts of A & B, is far cheaper than other parts of Scotland. Therefore this is a useful means of bringing in new people to these areas where money is cheaper – don't upset this balance.

Will the statement alone mean they will get automatic planning permission? Or will all other avenues be explored as usual? I.e. Green belt, access etc.

Regulations must be enforced to ensure that affordable housing should always remain classified as such and should not be allowed to be sold on at inflated prices

Private developers seem to think that the poorer people should live in little boxes and also charge too much

Should also have single detached housing, not everyone wants to live in or part of a "scheme" – would want an isolated rural location – better wages more in line with national wages would make more housing affordable i.e. need a stronger rural economy

Affordable housing should be built to attract lower income young families and to bring new employment opportunities to Argyll

Yes in partnership with Argyll & Bute – the community served

Innovative Community self build projects creating low cost, high quality homes with small ecological footprint (starting by using Argyll's timber resource!)

Brown field sites should be used in preference to green field – Re 21 Council should also make more and better quality affordable homes available

My experience is that the Councils own stock is poor, requires investment and a radical change in management, not simply converting to a new RSC which is A & B in everything but name

Unsure of present system, but land-sale to locals looking to stay and work in their communities (no information)

Charitable Trusts should be encouraged to provide housing for rent only

I think I have answered this elsewhere.

I think the community through its representations in Argyll & Bute Council should have most if not all of the responsibility for affordable housing as building it then abandoning responsibility is not enough.

Developers must provide affordable housing within new developments so that housing is mixed and affordable housing is good quality and in good areas

Has work in a very difficult context with insufficient support from A & B

Long term sustainability of communities, particularly Island communities will decline without affordable housing

Why should private developers shoulder the burden when the Council gives own housing stock up? Demolition when it has been renovated – see Balloghoy, Rothesay.

Another fiddle with government grants?

I agree with the above as long as it means what it says – real care and support!

Renovation of some old buildings rather than new ones being built might help to solve problem without having to destroy general appearance of towns or taking up more countryside, though new ones can be built "in keeping" with present ones

Q24 Do you have any further comments to make on the issue of care and support?

Care and Support in the community must also be backed up by an increase in the number of professional's employed within the Social Work department, the hospitals and related services

I think there are a lot of people 'playing the system' and making a mockery out of the above mentioned "care and support." Ticking boxes on forms has lost the reality of a situation and that is why there are people raking in benefits, claiming disability (badges) and taking little responsibility for their lives and actions. I feel passionate about this as a disabled person! While I support the ethos of maintaining people in their own homes. I have, from experience, witnessed large sums of money being, in my opinion, used inappropriately. My feeling is that in many cases, home is not the best place for some individuals or the safest and despite support. These people would be better cared for in a more sheltered environment Argyll & Bute could do with a greater number of Home Helps and District Nurses – both are over worked at present but do a wonderful job of work never the less There should be the element of choice. People should not be forced to remain in their own home or go into nursing homes. The needs and wishes of the individual should remain important

Quality of supervision of some "carers" and "Home Helps" is dubious. Service provided by some of these people is barely adequate

I genuinely believe that local people are happy to donate their own time to help the needy in their area even if this just means collecting their shopping etc. This can be encouraged and cultivated but in all truth many English people still feel resented here and are therefore reluctant to be seen as 'goody two shoes' by some local people

I don't know enough to comment, but I do feel that it's important to set up good support for the elderly, particularly those who have lived in an area all their life.

I agree with all the sentiments expressed above under 'Care and Support'

Having spent my working life as a nurse and working in the Health field, I agree only to certain extent regarding care in the community. It is all too easy to house vulnerable people with the promise of regular support etc. We will never have enough supporters and I've seen the results of this all too often. We need more secure care units for many of the mental/physical disabled.

More integrated approach combining social – health to improve quality of service provided.

Not enough carers at present, not enough housing

Not enough social support for all groups in the community – too many chiefs and not enough Indians' doing the caring

More sheltered housing in the areas people originally lived – to enable them to remain in familiar surroundings

Regarding the elderly – where is the money to place the neglected, infirm into decent care homes. I spent a great deal of my time as a care home manager, visiting/collecting frail elderly, who were on a timeless waiting list to enter a residential home. They all had very little or no home care. We have to examine this situation very carefully.

We have had recent experience of the Community Nursing Service as my partner needed medical care at home after a major operation carried out in the Glasgow Western Infirmary. The Community Nursing service level and quality of care has been excellent. The closure of parts of the Vale of Leven Hospital is very worrying

Trying to maintain people in their own houses is often done for too long leading to neglect and detrimental to health. Provision of more suitable care homes is essential

If elderly don't retire to a rural area and put excess demands on small hospitals and limited health care – very brutal but honest

Bute should be a thriving area in the 21st century and not a retirement home for the U.K.

Living in their own home "Independently" is not always the best option for every individual, especially those with special needs

Certainly in our village people receive all the care and support they possibly could. Don't see a need for any increase.

Is there a registry of rented accommodation that is suitable for disabled persons?

Council/Social Work should work closer together to meet both their aims and objectives

Many people who have lived in an institution or been in hospital are so used to having care and support 24 hours, 7 days a week. If, they are to stay in their own homes they must be given plenty of support every day of the week, depending on their needs. People with Mental Health problems are very vulnerable and we must ensure they are looked after in the Community. Mental Health professionals must be given the help they need by support workers.

This is really needed for people living with problems

I feel it is needed for people to stay in their own homes – but also just as important for a place for them to go for respite care or full-time care.

I think more qualified people should be doing this job because many older people would be better in Hospital care and there are not enough places

Sorry, but I don't go for "care in the community." Some people just don't want to live in the community on their own. And the money needed to provide care for say four people in a house is phenomenal

Needs to be provision in every community not just the towns and larger villages i.e. elderly people who have lived all their independent lives in one community should not be forced to move away in order to get "sheltered" housing. That community then loses that local person and all that they still have to contribute to the community

More respite accommodation required

It was normal 60 years ago for older souls to be part of the community and use made of their knowledge. The lack of this has made more remote and less law abiding

As stated overleaf – I feel a cost cutting initiative/there are not enough workers with the skills/not enough workers and pay does not reflect labour

Fine to stay in own home if care is always available and if the person concerned really wants it, but there is a need, too, for residential accommodation which is attractive with facilities for privacy and communal living for those who do not want to remain at home

The running down of institutional care has cast more people in "vulnerable" categories on community care than, in many instances what communities can cope with. Perhaps more attention and resource should go into preserving various existing care institutions and/or providing some, such as "very sheltered housing"; which offer a compromise.

Alongside the development of care and support there should be public education and awareness raising to involve all members of a community in supporting vulnerable people and reduce ostracising and discrimination

Care and support can only work if you have staff, equipment supplies to fill the needs, medical back up on a regular basis and communication with relatives, giving them some responsibilities. There should be strong liaison between the various departments involved.

Care in the home may be excellent or of a poor standard. Some independent relative or friend must be involved to prevent loneliness and isolation – the greater need of all.

I do not think that it is fair that some people with Learning Difficulties are prioritised over normal people. I have a friend who has been on the housing list for four years and has no house, as there is none available. I have seen many drug abusers housed in this time.

Assessment of need of support could be improved – the support is there but would be better targeted

I think that at present services have greatly improved in this area, especially in Kintyre.

The caring competence of all agencies should have a definite acceptable standard (i.e. not "training will be given on the job!") The quality and quantity of care is often appalling due to lack of ability of carer (where it should be carers) time apportioned to each dependent person and cost to client. Motivation of local authority departments and those they employ should be re-assessed at all levels, also in the private sector.

The whole 'system' is far too complicated

Much appreciated having our house checked and made safer for two pensioners

Could we have help for gardens and odd jobs – maybe voluntary - for OAP's?

Q25 – further comments

Holiday homes should pay full Council Tax with a view to make this kind of housing less attractive – thus providing a chance for young local people to buy houses at a reasonable price.

I would like to add my support to the A & B Council in their intention to add only to local Communities and therefore prevent any idea of ribbon development

Why is soundproofing continually overlooked? Flats are dreadful prisons for people with disabilities...

There should be a strategy to provide suitable houses for workers who spend all their working life in tied houses and need to be re-housed when they retire. Provision of more Sheltered Housing complexes

I think that if more housing and care and help initiatives are to be introduced it must be done in conjunction with increased policing in the denser housing estates

I'd like to see you being more specific in your aims. The wording is too loose.

Worth considering how far housing shortage is caused by young people leaving home to set up house on their own?

Here in Mull we have some of the most wonderful scenery in the world but we also have some diabolical looking housing. This is why other people do not want to live here! In short they feel their lives could be very spartan and they are right because the anti-environment crowd dominate decision making here. Builders and tradesmen just want to make money and care nothing about what they build. A & B do nothing about that 'ambience' here.

Most development should be within existing settlements filling gap or brown field spaces. Close to amenities and services. It should not be built on existing green field sites and not enclose any recreational green spaces or parks

I also think that landlords should either force tenants to keep houses and gardens in good and pleasant conditions. Looking round some rented homes there is strong evidence of neglect.

The aims for Helensburgh are not clear in the plan that has been published so far. Places like Cardross have/having their population increasing out of size of the existing community

An ideal way of holding Councils to ransom. Housing should always be in the remit of local Council and with an independent body made up of un-elected persons on the lines of Community Councils

We can't complain about housing at all

It was difficult to get the information without access to Internet. The documents are huge – should be split into areas (available separately)

Strategy shows gross over provision of housing and development, destruction of green field areas and will cause planning blight over a wide area

You have not covered the Council responsibility to provide houses to people in certain tied housing. The Council has sold most of its housing and terrible suffering is expected when no choice of area is possible or loss of long term 'home.'

Eco-friendly designs/energy efficient designs in order to keep running costs to a minimum.
Local renewable energy projects so that communities can be self-sufficient
More resources to Ali-energy so that they in turn can help and advise more households on energy efficiency

Apart from the concerns re the use of green field sites for development expressed above, their use is likely to attract private developers. These are likely to care most about their own profits and are not likely to care about the local people's opinions or about the land they are building over

Wherever possible new housing should be built on brown field sites and not allowed to encroach on green belt areas

Argyll & Bute need to be sensitive to the satellite/dormitory nature of the Helensburgh area. From Shandon to Cardross, the population is looking inwards to the Glasgow contribution, not outwards to Argyll. This requires a different approach to places such as Inveraray or Bute Keep Council and Housing Association out, Housing Association makes pokey second-rate small flats – I know I have seen many!

Can we require householders to care for the exterior and shared areas of their environment? If everyone cleaned just a little of their public area around their homes, the whole environment would be improved – how can this be positively encouraged – highlighting pleasant areas in local newspaper stressing community spirit. Not West End high price property – but less obvious examples of good care/happy environment

Housing needs to be made a home for client and not a warehouse

Most housing built in Argyll does not live up to the high landscape, cultural and environmental standards of the place. Concerted effort is required to raise standards

Q 28 any other issues that you feel has been missed?

Sorry to be so crabby but I am very pessimistic about A & B

Dumping of untreated raw sewage into the lochs and seas/chemicals in and on our foods
The public needs to be able to contact the police with observations. How can we do this most effectively? We all want to help to improve safety – Many of us would contact by mobile phones.

Lack of car parking areas

All of us want to see more police on foot in this area

The towns and A & L should be managed by a local Town Council

Living on Mull – it is very difficult to make some answers. We are a reasonable “good” island
Strathclyde Police is hugely under staffed. There are simply not enough Police officers to deal with crime.

Better education in schools, nowadays children have no respect for other people or their property

Drug Dealing

Police officers should be out and about especially at times when most crimes are committed. There should be a strong visible presence.

There is a clear disparity between the ‘relevance’ and the importance of the issues listed above – so those classified as very relevant do not always figure in the most important list
Under health issues we really have to look at the under use of Dunoon General Hospital. It is a disgrace how patients have to be shipped across the water when we have a very good hospital on our doorstep. I know the financial arrangements – but sometimes we have to group together and fight.

These questionnaires are getting more and more sloppy, vague and slanted. The results can be predicted from the questions

By community policing I do not mean police personnel driving round the town in a van. I accept that my priorities would be quite different if I lived in other parts of Strathclyde
Breaking into business premises

Scottish Parliament policies call on local authorities to be 'responsive to local needs' to have a wider sense of ownership and promote involvement rather than 'just consultation.' These questionnaires are an admirable start – but they are consultation – more involvement is needed

It would appear that the upgrading and maintaining of Helensburgh front and promenade is given less importance than in other coastal towns in Argyll & Bute e.g. Dunoon and Rothesay. I consider this to be unfair discrimination

Protection of Ambulance Crews and Health professionals – privatisation of Rapid Accessibility + Response

Fairer sentencing between men and women/less people sent to prison more community service and helping the "criminal" to resolve other problems

The inadequacy of planning people to get things right. At this moment in time – "The cart is before the horse and we will all suffer.

With the demolition of a local poorly managed and rundown Hotel and self-catering units catering for low-cost accommodation seekers. We no longer suffer from drunken/noisy visitors to this establishment

Punishment too light/needs further study

More Police – so that everything becomes a priority

In hamlets where there is no witness – one word against the other – violence/break-ins-damage/something should be done to help here. I know about it?

Roads – Using speed cameras on all approach roads into Helensburgh

Most crime in rural areas involves the over indulgence of alcohol. Perhaps preventative measures are needed – Upping the license fees to pubs etc.

Clean the beach and don't let dog owners use it as a dog Loo

To make parents more aware and responsible for there teenagers

If Tourism and hospitality employment maintains its high importance here economically then training and qualifications should be obtained here e.g. Dunstaffnage: catering schools: Management Course etc.

Rehabilitation projects both for the mind of the offender and his physical activities.

What do all of these Policemen do? Issue should be to reduce force by 50%!

Bad neighbours/noisy anti-social behaviour etc.

Comes under road safety – real need to curb 'boy racers' before they kill themselves or some poor soul who gets in their way

Underage drinking – I was brought up to take beer and wine and started drinking alcohol like most normal people do at around 6 – 7 years of age, alcohol with ones dinner. Thus I do not go "Mental" when able to get it for myself!

While road safety is of the utmost importance, constantly checking for speeding motorists seems excessive of time spent on this. Police presence visible on streets helps reduce many crimes.

Drug dealing

More Police manpower in rural areas?

Why do we not refer to adult "disorder"?



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Performance and Improvement Division

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Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

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Your ref:
Our ref:

9 March 2004

Dear Community Planning Partnership Chair

I am writing to you in your capacity as chair of your Community Planning Partnership.

The Executive is looking at how it can best support the Community Planning process, to gain a closer understanding of issues facing delivery agencies and to look at how the Executive improves its own approach to joint and cross cutting working. These areas are often identified by external stakeholders as being key actions the Executive needs to take if the Community Planning process is to be successful.

One way in which we are taking this forward is through an initiative which will develop direct contacts between members of the Executive's Management Group (heads of the Executive's departments) and groups of Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs). This is an initiative which supports us in improving our understanding of and interaction with stakeholders as part of our "Changing to Deliver" programme. Each member of Management Group will take responsibility for developing links with a geographic cluster of CPPs.

We hope this project will help to:

Identify ways to improve and strengthen communication and working practices between local delivery agencies and the Executive;

Look at the links between national and local policy and implementation, highlighting key issues, processes and unblocking issues;

Look at barriers and impediments to effective joint working at a local level and supporting and encouraging the Community Planning process at the national, regional and local levels;

Provide a horizon scan, looking at future developments, joint implications and risks; and

Facilitate information exchange and clarification on issues as they arise.

We hope these contacts will enable Management Group to get a better idea of how Community Planning is progressing and to help build better, positive working relationships between Partnerships and the Executive.

Clearly the detailed working methods will develop but in the first instance we thought it sensible to nominate a Community Planning Partnership to co-ordinate the initial contact. The attached annex sets out the groupings of Community Planning Partnerships and which Management Group member will be responsible for making those links. It also highlights which CPP the Management Group member will be approaching as their liaison point.

The nominated Management Group member will be in contact with the initial contact for your cluster shortly to make arrangements so an introductory meeting can take place in the next couple of months. Clearly you will want to consider how best to liaise with that point of contact and the other members of your cluster to ensure that all CPPs can be engaged in the process. If you would like more information about the project, I would be happy to discuss in more detail.

We are keen that this project provides an opportunity for constructive and useful dialogue for both your partnership and ourselves. We also think it is important to take stock on how the project is working next summer – both for CPPs and for the Executive. We will also need to make sure that these arrangements complement the post CP Implementation Group landscape.

I hope you agree that this will be a valuable project in developing better links between the Executive and those involved in delivery – the initial soundings we took from various stakeholders were supportive. It should help to address some of the concerns which those involved in Community Planning often raise with us. I hope these contacts will lead to a positive working environment and foster closer working relationships.

A copy of this letter goes to the CP Co-ordinator for your Partnership and to the Chief Executive of the local authority, James McLellan.



HEATHER KORONKA

CLUSTERS OF COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS AND MANAGEMENT GROUP CONTACT

Cluster	“Initial Contact” CPP	MG Member
Edinburgh, West Lothian East Lothian Midlothian	Edinburgh	John Elvidge, Permanent Secretary John Aldridge, Principal Finance Officer
Stirling Falkirk Clackmannanshire	Stirling	Trevor Jones, Health Department
Dundee Perth and Kinross Angus Fife	Dundee	Mike Ewart, Education Department
Aberdeen Aberdeenshire Moray	Aberdeen	Robert Gordon, Crown Office
Highland Argyll and Bute Western Isles Orkney Shetland	Highland	Andrew Goudie, Acting Head, Finance and Central Services Department
North Lanarkshire South Lanarkshire	South Lanarkshire	Nicky Munro, Development Department
Inverclyde Renfrewshire East Renfrewshire East Dunbartonshire West Dunbartonshire	Inverclyde East Dunbartonshire	Jim Gallagher, Justice Department
North Ayrshire South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire	North Ayrshire	Eddie Frizzell, Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning Department
Dumfries & Galloway Scottish Borders	Both	John Graham, Environment and Rural Affairs Department
Glasgow		Contacts already made through Scottish Executive existing membership of the CPP and supporting arrangements

SCOTTISH RURAL PARTNERSHIP FUND – CONSULTATION PAPER**BACKGROUND**

The Scottish Executive is consulting on the future of the Scottish Rural Partnership Fund (which had a budget of £3.123m in 2003/4) in order to improve on its focus and delivery. The Fund is made up of the three strands listed below and is available to not-for-profit community and voluntary organisations and partnerships.

- The Rural Challenge Fund (RCF) – tackling rural problems
- Rural Strategic Support Fund (RSSF) – revenue/core cost grants to Local Rural Partnerships
- Local Capital Grants Scheme (LCGS) – capital grants for community and voluntary groups to provide new or upgraded premises. These are prioritised by Local Authorities.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

The major points to consider are:

1. If the definition of rural Scotland as a settlements of less than 3,000 persons is suitable.
2. Whether community businesses should be included and if this would apply to agriculture and fisheries
3. Whether the Fund should be retained as is, merged into one or distributed on behalf of rural Community Planning Partnerships, or dispersed into existing rural grants (It is suggested that the fund should be retained)
4. To introduce a fast track small grants scheme open all year round to include funding for capacity building
5. What support and guidance should be available to increase success rates of applications and projects?
6. Should the levels of funding be increased from the current ceilings – RCF and RSSF up to £50,000 and LCGS = up to £100,000?
7. Should the level of match funding required be changed from 25% in-kind?
8. Should the period of grant claim be extended to allow for carrying over funds between financial years?

ACTION

Arlene Cullum, the Council's Corporate Funding Officer has circulated the document around the Council's various departments and is seeking comments by 23 April 2004. The comments will then be collated into a draft document which will be circulated around on 7 May for final comments.

The meeting needs to decide on the following:

1. Whether each organisations replies individually
2. Whether we draft a joint reply as a CPP
3. Whether we incorporate our comments into the Council's comments

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SCOTTISH RURAL PARTNERSHIP FUND

Consultation Paper

March 2004



SCOTTISH RURAL PARTNERSHIP FUND

CONSULTATION PAPER

March 2004

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The Rural Policy Team of the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD) has prepared this consultation paper on the Scottish Rural Partnership Fund (SRPF). Your views on any aspect of the SRPF would be very welcome.

If you wish to access this consultation online, go to www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/rural/srpc. You can telephone Freephone 0800 77 1234 to find out where your nearest public internet access point is.

A new email alert system for SE consultations (**SEconsult**) was launched in December 2003. This system will allow stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive a weekly email containing details of all new SE consultations (including web links). SEconsult will complement, but in no way replace SE distribution lists, and is designed to allow stakeholders to ‘keep an eye’ on all SE consultation activity, and therefore be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. We encourage you to register as soon as possible.

How to respond to this consultation paper

To help summarise the issues, each section of the consultation document is followed by a question and these are repeated on the enclosed form for responses. You can respond by:

- Completing the enclosed response form and sending it to us at the address below. There are no postal charges for this.
- Completing the form on our website at www.scotland.gov.uk/srpfConsultationResponseForm/ and sending it to us by e-mail at srpfconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.
- Writing a letter or sending an e-mail to us with your comments.

We would be grateful if you could clearly indicate in your response which questions or parts of the consultation paper you are responding to (using the consultation questionnaire if appropriate) as this will aid our analysis of the responses received.

Comments on the proposals should be sent by **Friday 28 May 2004** to:

Scottish Rural Partnership Fund Consultation
FREEPOST NAT11009
EDINBURGH
EH14 0BR

Please include your name, organisation (if appropriate) and contact details with your response.

We will make all responses available to the public in the Scottish Executive Library by 29 June 2004, unless confidentiality is requested. All responses not marked confidential will be checked for any potentially defamatory material before being logged in the library or placed on the website.

If you have any queries, please call the Rural Policy Team on 0131 244 4479.

Foreword by the Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development



I know that the Scottish Rural Partnership Fund (SRPF) makes a real difference to people's lives and that it is greatly valued by Scotland's rural communities. We are fully committed to the continuance of the Fund. However, as it is over seven years since the SRPF started, we want to look at how we can simplify the Fund and make sure that it is best able to provide grants for improvements that people in rural areas want and further focus assistance on those disadvantaged communities in greatest need of assistance.

Over those seven years, the SRPF has helped finance hundreds of community-based rural projects across Scotland, many of these in disadvantaged communities. All these projects aim to ensure that everyone in rural Scotland can access the opportunities and services that will allow them to have a good quality of life and create communities and services that are sustainable in the longer term. The positive impact which the projects often have on the development of their local communities is huge and can make a significant contribution to closing the rural opportunity gap.

However, we recognise that the Fund could be made easier for rural communities to apply to particularly in disadvantaged areas and be better designed to help good projects access the money they need. I also know that it is the people who have direct experience of SRPF funding, or the lack of it, who may be best able to identify where things can be improved. This consultation paper is the first stage in that process. It sets out some of the issues and a range of options for tackling them.

The consultation will be open for three months. It is designed to provoke discussion. This is your chance to tell us what you think and I urge you to share your views with us. Those views will be fully considered in shaping any new proposals for the future operation of the SRPF. I look forward to receiving your response and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking part.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Allan Wilson MSP

1 March 2004

1. Summary

This document invites your comments on the current operation of the Scottish Rural Partnership Fund (SRPF), a grants' scheme for communities across rural Scotland. The paper sets out some background to the SRPF and explains why we are holding this consultation.

The SRPF has been up and running in its current format for over seven years. During that time, the Fund had not been formally evaluated. Over the autumn of 2003, an evaluation of the SRPF was carried out to assess the effectiveness of the Fund at delivering for Scotland's rural communities. The evaluation sought the views of successful and unsuccessful SRPF projects, as well as key stakeholder, including Local Rural Partnerships, Community Planning Partnerships, local authorities, and other funders such as the Community Fund.

Overall, the evaluation showed that the SRPF has the scope to meet the needs of Scotland's rural communities and that the funding it provides is greatly valued by them. However, a number of issues emerged from the evaluation process. In particular, the evaluation stressed the need for the SRPF to be easier for applicants to understand and less bureaucratic. More detail on the outcome of this work and a link to the evaluation summary report can be found in section 5.

The findings of the evaluation reinforce the need for an external consultation exercise before final decisions are taken on the future operation of the Scheme. There are a number of options on which we want the views of Scotland's rural communities. These options include different ways of operating the SRPF to make it simpler and more effective at helping good projects which improve the quality of life of people in rural areas to access the funding they need.

Each option for changing the fund is set out under the 'What do you think?' section (page 6) and each option is followed by a question or questions seeking your views. The questions are also listed in the enclosed questionnaire. You do not have to answer all the questions, nor do you have to use the questionnaire provided. We are equally happy to receive your responses in the form of a letter or e-mail which covers issues of particular interest to you. However, please do remember to tell us if you want your response to remain confidential.

2. The Context

'Rural Scotland: A New Approach' forms the basis of the Scottish Executive's rural policy. A copy can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/library2/doc15/rsna-00.asp. The four main priorities it identifies – economic development, providing opportunity, improving access to services, sustaining our natural and cultural heritage – are key to our aspirations for rural Scotland and are reflected in the rural commitments of the 'Partnership for a Better Scotland' (www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/government/pfbs-00.asp). The objectives and criteria for the SRPF are consistent with these four main priorities.

They aim to ensure that everyone in rural Scotland can access the opportunities and services that will enable them to have a good quality of life and create communities and services that are sustainable in the longer term.

The consultation on the SRPF will also be carried out in line with the ongoing joint strategic review of voluntary sector funding in Scotland which is being taken forward by Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, the Convention for Scottish Local Authorities and the Scottish Executive. The aim of the review is to maximise the contribution of voluntary organisations to the common good of Scotland by working to resolve the cultural and practical issues relating to the funding of voluntary organisations that currently constrain them. Further details can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/about/UNASS/UNASS/00015300/page2106627178.aspx. The Strategic Review Steering Group will make its recommendations to Ministers in due course.

3. What is the Scottish Rural Partnership Fund?

The SRPF is an annual competitive fund with a budget of £3.123m in 2003/04. The Fund invites applications from not-for-profit community and voluntary organisations and partnerships for a variety of rural development projects.

The SRPF in its current format was established on 1 April 1997. The scheme is split into three strands as set out in the table below:

Table 1 Purpose of and Conditions of Award for the Three Strands of the SRPF

Funding Strand	Stated Purpose of the Fund	Summary of Conditions of Award
Rural Challenge Fund (RCF)	Offers capital and revenue grants to rural projects, which propose innovative ways of tackling rural problems or create wider opportunities for rural areas.	The funding is primarily intended for local projects, but national bids, which benefit rural communities across Scotland and which have local backing, may be considered. Grants of up to 50% of eligible costs are available for a period of 1 to 3 years, subject to a maximum overall grant limit of £50,000.

Table 1 Purpose of and Conditions of Award for the Three Strands of the SRPF (continued)

Funding Strand	Stated Purpose of the Fund	Summary of Conditions of Award
Rural Strategic Support Fund (RSSF)	<p>Offers revenue grants to cover the core costs of establishing Local Rural Partnerships, along with grants for minor capital items.</p> <p>However, funding can also be made available to other groups wishing to promote rural community capacity building at a local or national level.</p>	<p>For Local Rural Partnerships, a grant is available to fund up to 50% of eligible costs in the first year, declining to 33% in the second year and 16% in the third year.</p> <p>For local or national capacity building projects, outside Local Rural Partnerships, a grant of up to 50% of the eligible costs is available for up to 3 years, subject to a ceiling of £50,000.</p>
Local Capital Grants Scheme (LCGS)	<p>Offers mostly capital grants to assist local, voluntary and community organisations to provide new or upgraded community premises for educational, social or recreational activities.</p> <p>Local Authorities which submit a prioritised list to SEERAD each year administer applications.</p>	<p>Grants are available for up to 50% of the eligible costs, subject to a ceiling of £100,000. In addition, the relevant Local Authority must be committed to match fund every project to 25% to the eligible costs.</p>

The balance of funding between Rural Challenge Fund (RCF), Rural Strategic Support Fund (RSSF) and Local Capital Grants Scheme (LCGS) is not fixed but is dependent on the quality of the applications received under each strand. In 2003/04, 86 projects were successful: 58 for RCF, 25 for LCGS and 3 for RSSF. This represented an overall success rate of 44%.

4. Existing Criteria for the SRPF

The operation of the SRPF is governed by a detailed set of criteria. These are laid out in the SRPF Information Note which can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/environment/srpf-00.asp.

Criteria include:

- that local community support for projects is essential for funding to be awarded. We need evidence of consultation with the local community
- that the SRPF contribution to a project must be match funded from other sources, e.g. the public, private or voluntary sectors

- that match funding does not need to be in place for an application to be successful although it does need to be in place for money to be paid. A maximum of 25% of match funding can be ‘in kind’ match funding, such as volunteers’ time in taking the project forward.

Projects which are currently ineligible for support from all these strands of the SRPF include:

- businesses and profit-making bodies
- activities associated with agriculture and fisheries
- existing projects and projects where the match funding will come from another Scottish Executive Department, Whitehall Department or an agency of the Scottish Executive.

We set out our main options for change to the SRPF in Section 6 of this paper. However, we believe that most of the existing criteria are important to ensure that the SRPF meets its aims for Scotland’s rural communities. Our intention is to keep the existing criteria largely intact. The two main exceptions where we would welcome your views on proposed changes are on the definition used for what makes up rural Scotland (section 6.6) and whether we should fund community businesses including some community-led projects related to agriculture and fisheries activity (section 6.7).

5. Why Review?

The SRPF has been in operation for over seven years and anecdotal evidence indicates that the quality of recent applications has been falling and that the scheme may not be meeting the needs of rural communities fully.

We commissioned an external evaluation of the SRPF over the autumn of 2003. The purpose of this research was to evaluate the effectiveness of the SRPF, in terms of its success in providing support to rural communities in Scotland. The research, involving surveys of participants and stakeholders, examined the objectives of the SRPF; the quality of the applications; its operation; and whether it provided value for money. All three strands of the Fund were included in the evaluation. The main recommendations of the evaluation included that:

- SRPF should be retained but the three strands of the Fund should be merged to create a single fund
- the mechanisms for providing support and guidance to applicants should be reviewed
- a network based possibly on existing local partnerships should be developed to help projects with their applications
- a new category of ‘small projects’ should be introduced for groups to secure limited funding to take forward smaller projects or to develop a proposal with a view to applying for a full project grant
- the terms and conditions of funding should be reviewed in three areas; the maximum ceiling on grants, the single annual call for applications and the lack of provision for carrying over funds between years.

A summary of the external evaluation report on the SRPF can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/rural/raf5-00.asp.

6. What Do You Think?

We are grateful to all those who took part and shared their views in the recent evaluation of the SRPF. This consultation paper is largely based on the outcome of that research. It looks at a number of issues and proposals as to how the SRPF could or should change the way it operates and asks for your comments and opinions.

The most important part of this process is for us to hear what you think. You may have received SRPF funding; you may have applied for it and been unsuccessful or you may have provided match funding or other support to a project. Your views are important in deciding how SRPF money should be spent in the future. The main areas where we would welcome your views are set out below and in the enclosed questionnaire. You may want to raise other areas for change.

6.1 No SRPF

One possible option would be to abolish the SRPF and, rather than replace it with some other grants scheme, to explore different ways of using the money to help Scotland's rural communities. The money could be distributed on behalf of rural Community Planning Partnerships to be used for the benefit of their rural population or dispersed to existing rural grants schemes, such as the Rural Transport Fund. However, by adopting such an approach, one of the main benefits of the SRPF – that local people generate local solutions for their community – would be lost. Therefore, we do not suggest that this approach is adopted.

Question 1

Do you think we should abolish the SRPF? If so, how should we use the money to help Scotland's rural communities?

6.2 No Change

We could make no change to the current operation of the SRPF but continue with the scheme in its current format. This would include retaining the existing three strands of the scheme, current levels of funding and conditions of grant. The main disadvantage with the 'no change' option is that it would not tackle the issues identified in the recent, external evaluation of the SRPF, nor improve the effectiveness of the Fund in addressing the needs of Scotland's rural communities.

Question 2

Do you want to keep the SRPF in its current format? If so, why?

6.3 Merge the Different Strands of the SRPF

The recent evaluation recommended merging all three strands of SRPF. Merging the different strands of SRPF has merit for rural communities in that it reduces confusion around the different strands of the scheme and what type of project should apply to each. However, LCGS is a very different scheme from RCF and RSSF. It is a mainly capital scheme for building or improving community premises. It is administered by the Local Authorities on behalf of the Scottish Executive. Local Authorities must be prepared to commit to match fund LCGS projects to the tune of 25%. Local Authorities have local knowledge to prioritise bids and relevant professional and technical expertise regarding planning and building such premises. The current set-up encourages local authority buy-in to the long-term sustainability of community facilities. These benefits would be lost if all three of the strands were merged. As a result, we do not suggest merging LCGS with the other strands of the scheme.

However, it is arguable that the original rationale for RSSF no longer holds. This strand of the scheme needs to be considered in the context of the development of Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) and the wider community planning framework. These mechanisms promote community capacity building in rural areas in the same way as RSSF. As community planning has evolved, the number of applications to RSSF has fallen. There were only 13 applications to RSSF in 2004/05 and it seems unlikely that many applications will come forward in future years. We suggest that RSSF be discontinued as a separate fund and that the revised SRPF would comprise of two strands; one for mostly capital grants to upgrade or provide new community facilities and one for mostly revenue grants to tackle local rural issues. The latter could be used to fund partnerships.

Question 3

Should the SRPF have two strands in future – one mostly for capital grants and one mostly for revenue grants?

6.4 Introduce Two Application Rounds a Year

We recognise that the current position, where there is only one annual application round for SRPF, can cause difficulties. If projects miss the autumn deadline they have to wait a year to put their project forward and this can lead to long delays to good projects which are needed in rural communities. We feel that this problem is less acute for LCGS projects which need a relatively long lead-in time to do all the necessary planning before building work starts. We suggest the introduction of two annual rounds for RCF.

Question 4

Should there be two application rounds each year for RCF?

6.5 Introduce Themes

We have used specific themes alongside the general criteria for RCF in the past to encourage applications from projects which tackle issues for particular sections of the community or which help disadvantaged groups. For example for the 2002/03 round the theme was childcare and for 2003/04 it was older people. However, the use of these extra themes has not been very successful at generating a significant number of high quality projects which address the particular theme. We would welcome your ideas on the potential benefits of using themes and any ideas on how to do this successfully. For example, communities are likely to benefit from a minimum length of notice about the introduction of a theme. Extra funding might be available for certain themes in future if projects clearly fit with specific national policy agendas. It is worth stressing that projects will not be ruled out if they fail to address a particular year's theme.

Question 5

What are your views on the use of additional themes?

6.6 Change the Use of the Rural Definition

The Scottish Executive employs a framework for defining what area is covered by the term 'rural Scotland'. Within this framework, a core definition defines rural Scotland as settlements of less than 3000 residents (regardless of drive times from larger population centres which define degrees of rurality). For the purpose of SRPF, we recognise that this definition is not always appropriate. For example, a community and voluntary organisation can be based in a settlement of over 3000 residents but provide a service which benefits residents of the surrounding rural area. As a result, SRPF projects are always considered on an individual case-by-case basis and we judge each application on the extent to which it will benefit rural communities. We propose to continue with this approach.

Question 6

What are your views on the flexible use of the rural definition of settlements of less than 3000 residents as a guide to whether an application is rural or not?

6.7 Fund Community Businesses/Agricultural and Fisheries Activity

We do not use the SRPF to fund businesses. However, we suggest that the SRPF consider funding projects undertaken by community businesses where they are genuinely community led and where profits are reinvested in that business for the benefit of the wider community. In such cases, we will look at each case on its merits. Projects are most likely to succeed if they are providing a service in a rural area that is not being provided and is not likely to be provided by the private sector or by the community/voluntary sector acting in a traditional way.

Equally, we do not provide funding for the core activities associated with agriculture and fisheries via the SRPF. However, projects which are associated with agriculture and/or fisheries but which are community-led and intended for the benefit of the local community will be considered. Again, profits must be reinvested in the business for the continued benefit of the wider community. It is important to state that giving money to such organisations means that there will be less funding available for SRPF's traditional client base of community and voluntary organisations.

Question 7

Do you think that community businesses should be funded by SRPF?

Question 8

Do you think that community-led projects that are associated with agriculture and/or fisheries should be funded through SRPF?

6.8 Introduce a Small Projects' Fund (including grants for capacity building)

- a) We would like to introduce a small grants' element as part of RCF. The element will make total grants of between £500 and £5000. These grants may represent 100% of a project's funding requirements and this strand of the Fund will be open to applications all year. The application process will be straightforward and decisions on applications will be made quickly (usually within 12 weeks). This strand of the Fund will also make full grants of £500 to £5000 available for feasibility studies to allow rural communities to explore and develop an idea for a project in their local area.
- b) As part of the latter proposal, we would like to make some funding available for capacity building projects. This fits with the existing 'Rural Voices' pilot scheme which was launched in October 2002 to encourage rural communities to identify their particular needs and become skilled at running their own local consultations on what the community feels it requires. The successful projects receive a high level of support and guidance. The current funding for 'Rural Voices' is due to end in March 2005. We recognise that 'Rural Voices' delivers real benefits, particularly in terms of capacity building, but we are unclear about whether demand exists for a similar scheme under the SRPF with a high level of support and guidance as opposed to a less intensively supported, more general scheme.

It is important to note that a high level of support and guidance will cost significantly more to deliver and that, as a result, we will be able to fund fewer projects if that is the favoured option.

Question 9

Would introducing a small grants scheme be a good idea?

Question 10

Do you think that a small number of these small grants' projects should receive higher levels of support and guidance to foster capacity building? What criteria would you use for deciding which projects require a higher level of support?

6.9 Increase Levels of Support and Guidance

We recognise the importance of providing effective support and guidance to applicants, especially to disadvantaged communities and groups which are less likely to apply to the SRPF or where grant support can make the biggest difference to people's quality of life. Over the summer of 2003, we held six road shows and two application seminars around the country. These events were intended to supplement the written information note for the SRPF and provide interested parties with the chance to find out more about the Fund and ask questions about their own projects. The events were well attended and, subject to the demands on the relatively small team that deals with the SRPF, we would like to do more of them. However, a relatively high proportion of projects still fail – both to be successful at the application stage and to access their funding once they have received an award. There may be a complimentary role for a network based on existing partnerships or for an on-line support network where applicants can share their experiences. It may be the case that a complex and more expensive project needs more intensive support and guidance than a smaller, straightforward project. In addition, as discussed in section 6.8, there may be a case for providing more intensive support for feasibility studies. It is important to stress that additional support will depend on the capacity of the Rural Policy Team and the relevant external organisations to deliver that extra level of support.

Question 11

What sort of support and guidance would you like? Should the levels of support and guidance offered vary by the size of the project? What are the advantages of providing guidance and support locally?

6.10 Sharing Good Practice

We are well aware that one of the ways of providing greater support and guidance for applicants would be to increase the opportunities available for people to share their experience; examples of what worked and what did not work, where they found useful assistance from other organisations and where they encountered unexpected problems. While we recognise that not everyone has easy access to the Internet, one suggested way of helping people to share their experience is to dedicate an area on the Rural Community Gateway website (www.ruralgateway.org.uk) to the SRPF. This would be a place where applicants could share their experience, find out about the experiences of others and ask for advice from each other. It could be a condition of grant in future that successful projects complete a simple form for inclusion on such a website.

Question 12

Would you welcome a shared area on the Rural Community Gateway website where people can share their experience of the SRPF? Do you have any other suggestions for ways of sharing good practice?

6.11 Extend the Deadline for Applications

We recognise that eight weeks between the opening of each round of SRPF and the deadline for submission of applications may not be long enough especially for small local, community and voluntary organisations which have to involve a number of other individuals and organisations in the process of preparing the application. We would be interested to hear your views.

Question 13

Is eight weeks between the opening of each SRPF application round and the deadline for submitting the application form long enough? If not, why, and how long do you need?

6.12 Increase the Levels of Funding

The thresholds for each of the strands of the SRPF (Table 1, page 3) have not changed in seven years. One option would be to increase the amount of money available under each strand of the scheme. Any increase will need to be funded from the existing money available to the scheme and, as a result, fewer projects will secure grants if the level of funding goes up. For example, based on a 5% increase over the last seven years, the total amount available to RCF and RSSF could increase to £70,000 and under LCGS to £140,000.

Question 14

Should the level of funding available to each strand of the SRPF be increased? If so, why, and by how much? What difference would increasing the levels of funding to £70,000 for RCF and £140,000 for LCGS make to the outputs of SRPF projects?

6.13 Change the Match-funding Requirements

At the moment, SRPF does not provide all the funding that a successful project needs. Instead, it is a requirement of the Fund that match funding is secured from other funding bodies. The aim of this requirement is to secure value for money for taxpayers' money and to secure buy-in from other – often local – organisations to good projects in their area. It is important that communities are committed to securing such funding for their project if it is to be sustainable. The SRPF will accept 25% of match funding contributions as in kind match funding, for example, volunteers' time. We could remove or decrease this match funding requirement. Any such changes to match funding requirements will mean that the extra money has to be found from existing SRPF money and that fewer projects will be successful.

Question 15

Should the level of match funding required be changed? If so, how should it be changed and what would the benefits be?

6.14 Extend the Period During Which Grants can be Claimed

At the moment, the SRPF does not allow for the carrying over of grant funds between financial years. This means that money allocated to a project in a particular financial year must be spent in that financial year and cannot be carried forward into the next financial year except in exceptional circumstances. We recognise that this can cause real difficulties for award holders as SRPF grants cannot be released to successful projects until all the match funding is in place. It can be difficult for projects to secure confirmation of their match funding in time to access and spend their full SRPF grant entitlement in the financial year for which it was allocated. Under the current arrangements, most projects lose their grant entitlement in these circumstances. We suggest relaxing this requirement to allow projects to claim grant within a longer timescale of an award of grant being made. One concern about this approach is that it may remove the incentive for a project to maintain its momentum and ensure that it claims its grant entitlement within a reasonable timescale. However, this does not mean that a project can wait an indefinite period of time before claiming their grant. What it does mean is that projects will have a longer but set timescale within which to claim. We will set clear timescales for claiming grant within this new flexibility. For example, projects may be allowed an additional 12 months after the financial year for which the grant was allocated to submit their final claim for that financial year.

Question 16

Should projects be able to carry over funding between financial years, where this is allowed under the terms of Government accounting?

6.15 Other Issues

This paper does not attempt to cover all the possible changes that could be made to the structure and operation of SRPF. If you feel that there are specific changes – not already covered – that could be made to the Fund which would help it to deliver better for Scotland’s rural communities, then please let us know. It would be helpful to have an outline of the changes you think would help and an idea of the improvements you think would result from those changes.

Question 17

Do you have any further comments on the SRPF or on the consultation paper?

7. The SRPF Consultation Process

This consultation paper is only one part of the wider consultation process on the future operation of the SRPF. We will also be holding regional meetings around Scotland to gather views on the future of the SRPF. We expect there will be eight regional meetings, one each in Orkney, Shetland, Western Isles, Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Caithness and Sutherland and Perth or Stirling. These meetings will be a further opportunity for interested parties to contribute. We expect them to take place during April and May. If you would like to take part please email your name, organisation (if relevant), contact details and a note of which meeting you would like to attend to srpconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or call 0131 244 4479 to register your interest. More details of timings and exact location will be made available nearer the time on the Scottish Executive website and on the Rural Community Gateway website (www.ruralgateway.org.uk).

Once the consultation process is complete, we will be holding post-consultation meetings in the same locations to feed back the results of the consultation process to those who took part. Once again, further details will be available nearer the time and if you would like to attend please register your interest as above.

8. Conclusion

We welcome your comments on the issues raised in this paper and more widely on any other issues connected with the distribution of SRPF funding. The consultation will last until Friday 28 May 2004 and the details of how to share your views are summarised at the front of this document.

Thank you for taking the time to respond.

Appendix 1

The Scottish Executive Consultation Process

Consultation is an essential and important aspect of Scottish Executive working methods. Given the wide-ranging areas of work of the Scottish Executive, there are many varied types of consultation. However, in general Scottish Executive consultation exercises aim to provide opportunities for all those who wish to express their opinions on a proposed area of work to do so in ways which will inform and enhance that work.

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body. Consultation exercises may involve seeking views in a number of different ways, such as public meetings, focus groups or questionnaire exercises.

Typically, Scottish Executive consultations involve a written paper inviting answers to specific questions or more general views about the material presented. Written papers are distributed to organisations and individuals with an interest in the area of consultation, and they are also placed on the Scottish Executive web site enabling a wider audience to access the paper and submit their responses.¹ Copies of all the responses received to consultation exercises (except those where the individual or organisation requested confidentiality) are placed in the Scottish Executive library at Saughton House, Edinburgh (K Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD, telephone 0131 244 4552).

The views and suggestions detailed in consultation responses are analysed and used as part of the decision-making process. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented.

If you have any comment about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact details set out at the start of this paper.

¹www.scotland.gov.uk

Appendix 2

LIST OF CONSULTEES

Commission for Racial Equality
 Communities Scotland
 Community Fund
 Community Planning Partnerships
 Community Councils
 Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
 Councils for Voluntary Service
 Disability Rights Commission
 Equal Opportunities Commission
 Federation of Small Businesses
 Forestry Commission
 Highlands and Islands Enterprise
 Leader Plus Action Groups
 Local Authority Chief Executives
 Local Authority LCGS contact officers
 Local Enterprise Companies
 Local Rural Partnerships
 National Farmers Union
 New Opportunity Fund
 NHS Boards
 Recent Past Applicants to the SRPF - successful and unsuccessful
 Scottish Agricultural College
 Scottish Civic Forum
 Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
 Scottish Crofting Foundation
 Scottish Enterprise
 Scottish Landowners' Federation
 Scottish Natural Heritage
 Scottish Parliament
 Scottish Trades Union Congress
 Small Business Federation
 Social Inclusion Partnerships
 VisitScotland
 Voluntary Sector Intermediary Bodies
 Volunteer Centres

Appendix 3

SCOTTISH RURAL PARTNERSHIP FUND CONSULTATION

RESPONSE FORM

Please fill in the form below to record your views. After each section, there is a space for comments and further thoughts. Please include other options if you would like them to be considered. If you have more to say on a particular question please attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

Please send all responses by 28 May 2004 to:

**Scottish Rural Partnership Fund Consultation
FREEPOST NAT11009
EDINBURGH
EH14 0BR**

Or e-mail to: srpfconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

The form is available at www.scotland.gov.uk/srpfConsultationResponseForm/ to be completed online or downloaded.

Your Details

Your name: _____

Your organisation (if applicable): _____

Your address: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone number: _____

1. Have you received or applied for an SRPF grant? Yes No
2. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)
 - (a) an individual (go to 3a/b)
 - (b) **on behalf of** a group or organisation (go to 3c)

3a. INDIVIDUALS:

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

Yes (go to 3b below)

No, not at all

3b. *Where confidentiality is not requested*, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following boxes)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

3c. ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

Your name and address as respondees **will be** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

Yes

No

4. We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future for consultation or research purposes?

Yes

No

Question 1	Yes	No
Do you think we should abolish the SRPF?		
If so, how should we use the money to help Scotland's rural communities?		

Question 2	Yes	No
Do you want to keep the SRPF in its current format?		
If so, why? Please share any comments with us:		

Question 3	Yes	No
Should the SRPF have two strands in future – one mostly for capital grants and one mostly for revenue grants?		
Please share any comments with us:		

SCOTTISH RURAL PARTNERSHIP FUND – CONSULTATION PAPER

Question 4	Yes	No
Should there be two application rounds each year for RCF?		
Please share any comments with us:		

Question 5	Yes	No
What are your views on the use of additional themes?		
Comments:		

Question 6	Yes	No
What are your views on the flexible use of the rural definition of settlements of less than 3000 residents as a guide to whether an application is rural or not?		
Comments:		

Question 7	Yes	No
Do you think that community businesses should be funded by SRPF?		
Comments:		

Question 8	Yes	No
Do you think that community-led projects that are associated with agriculture and/or fisheries should be funded through SRPF?		
Comments:		

Question 9	Yes	No
Would introducing a small grants scheme be a good idea?		
Comments:		

SCOTTISH RURAL PARTNERSHIP FUND – CONSULTATION PAPER

Question 10	Yes	No
Do you think that a small number of these small grants' projects should receive higher levels of support and guidance to foster capacity building?		
What criteria would you use for deciding which projects require a higher level of support?		

Question 11	Yes	No
Should the levels of support and guidance offered vary by the size of the project?		
<p>What sort of support and guidance would you like?</p> <p>What are the advantages of providing guidance and support locally?</p>		

Question 12	Yes	No
Would you welcome a shared area on the Rural Community Gateway website where people can share their experience of the SRPF?		
Do you have any other suggestions for ways of sharing good practice?		

Question 13	Yes	No
Is eight weeks between the opening of each SRPF application round and the deadline for submitting the application form long enough?		
If not, why, and how long do you need?		

Question 14	Yes	No
Should the level of funding available to each strand of SRPF be increased?		
<p>If so, why and by how much?</p> <p>What difference would increasing the levels of funding to £70,000 for RCF and £140,000 for LCGS make to the outputs of SRPF projects?</p>		

Question 15	Yes	No
Should the level of match funding required be changed?		
If so, how should it be changed and what would the benefits be?		

Question 16	Yes	No
Should projects be able to carry over funding between financial years, where this is allowed under the terms of Government accounting?		
Please share any comments with us.		

Question 17

Do you have any further comments on the SRPF or on the consultation paper?
(Please continue on a separate sheet if you wish.)



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