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**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

10 August 2005

A meeting of the **CPP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** will be held in the **SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE OFFICES, KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LOCHGILPHEAD** on **WEDNESDAY, 17 AUGUST 2005** at **10:30 AM**.

**AGENDA**

- 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES**
- 2. PRESENTATION BY HUGHIE DONALDSON, INITIATIVE AT THE EDGE CO-ORDINATOR**
- 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2005** (Pages 1 - 8)
- 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CPP MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2005**(Pages 9 - 12)
- 5. MATTERS ARISING**
- 6. COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES**
  - (a) CPP Biennial Conference Report - previously circulated, summary note attached (Brian Barker) (Pages 13 - 14)
  - (b) Capacity Building Budget - decision on which project submissions to support - papers to follow (Brian Barker)
  - (c) Discussion on themes for next Citizens Panel (Andy McKay-Hubbard) (Pages 15 - 16)
  - (d) CPP - International Links (verbal report - Brian Barker)
  - (e) Update by Theme Group Leaders on Progress with CPP Priorities
    - Health and Wellbeing Theme Group (Verbal Report - Gavin Brown)
    - Argyll and the Islands Local Economic Forum (Alan Milstead - paper to follow)
    - Scottish Enterprise Dumbartonshire (Verbal Report - Aileen Edwards)
    - Sustaining and Developing our Communities, Culture and Environment Theme Group (No progress to report since last paper to CPP on 8 July. Next Meeting: 24 August 2005)

**7. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

- (a) Update on Rural Service Priority Areas (Verbal Report - Brian Barker)
- (b) Response to the Scottish Parliament Rural Development Inquiry - for information (Andy McKay-Hubbard) (Pages 17 - 22)

**8. AOCB**

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12 October 2005

**MINUTES of MEETING of CPP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held in the SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE OFFICES, KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LOCHGILPHEAD on WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2005**

**Present:** James McLellan, Argyll and Bute Council (Acting Chair)  
Brian Barker, Argyll and Bute Council  
Donald MacVicar, Argyll and Bute Council  
Peter Minshall, Argyll CVS  
Ken Abernethy, Argyll and the Islands Enterprise  
David Dowie, Communities Scotland  
Gavin Brown, NHS Argyll and Clyde  
Marlene Baillie, Strathclyde Police  
Raymond Park, Strathclyde Police  
Patricia Logan, Volunteer Centre

**Apologies:** Andrew Campbell, SNH (Chair)  
Muriel Kupris, Argyll and Bute Council  
Josephine Stojak, NHS Argyll & Clyde (Citizens' Panel)  
Aileen Edwards, Scottish Enterprise, Dunbarton

## **1. WELCOME**

James McLellan, Acting Chair, welcomed those present at the meeting and, having informed them of Lolita Lavery, Community Planning Manager's current illness, the Management Committee joined him in wishing Lolita best wishes for a speedy recovery.

## **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2005 were accepted as an accurate record and the following points were noted:

1. Item 1 - Presentation by John Scott from ODS Consultants on Evaluation of Better Neighbourhood Services Fund

It was noted that Josephine Stojak, Brian Barker and David Dowie had yet to meet. ODS Consultants report to look at duplication and a report due at the end of June – use this in the remit. Donald MacVicar agreed to check the criteria for which users require to look.

2. Item 2.1 – the minutes of the previous meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> April

Lolita has still to meet Patrick Flynn with regard to Communities Scotland contribution to Community Planning.

3. Item 5(c) – Results of 8<sup>th</sup> Questionnaire to Citizens' Panel

Looking at former SIP area linked to stock transfer – evolve joint partnership round this. David and Marlene agreed that this would be a major opportunity – not only with housing.

**Admin Note: JMCL – this to be a standing item.**

4. Item 5(e) – Update by Theme Group Leaders on Progress with CPP Priorities – DRIVESAFE

A funding package is in place for the remainder of 2005 of:-

- £3,000 from Argyll and Bute Council;
- £3,000 from the Fire Service; and
- Balance of £4,000 from NHS or Health Improvement Fund.

Brian Barker suggested a 3-year plan for the DriveSafe budget to help the process to identify funding. It was agreed to continue discussions.

5. Item 6(a) – Update on Rural Policy Advisory Group/Closing the Opportunity Gap Targets

The process had started and a request had been submitted to the Scottish Executive for the research to include Islay, Colonsay and Jura as an additional area in Argyll and Bute. A decision on this is expected at the beginning of July.

**3. COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES**

**(a) CPP Biennial Conference**

The Management Committee discussed the feedback on the conference held on Friday, 10 June 2005.

James McLellan advised the Management Committee that he had received a very positive feedback on the conference, including the workshops, and invited feedback from other Committee members.

Everyone contributed to the discussion, the main points being that the conference had gone well and was well represented, the format was good and well organised, that the partnership would benefit from conversations which took place. Action points would be firmed up by August and bullet points of priorities would be pursued.

**(b) Partnership Capital Development**

With reference to the Management Committee minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2005 under the item on Sharing of Partnership Resources, the Partners discussed the development by the Bute and Cowal Project of a similar initiative to that of the partnership of Strathclyde Police, the local Council and the NHS in the renewal and rationalisation of various facilities.

Argyll and Bute Council are also looking at accommodation in

Campbeltown and would share the draft report. Area by area being looked at and in particular the water front and the town centre. Freeing up of property, initially keeping awareness ongoing.

It was agreed that this should be a standing item, every second meeting, to enable the sharing of information and to build a structure round this.

### **Admin note: standing item (every second meeting)**

#### **(c) Capacity Building Budget**

Brian Barker outlined the possible aims in order to make best use of the limited funds of approximately £20,000 for capacity building:

- To develop skills and experience of individuals rather than knowledge;
- To promote joint working and networking between individuals employed by different partners

and also outlined the possible criteria for bids which should be submitted to the Community Planning Manager by 12 August 2005.

James McLellan confirmed he would be happy with this approach though the turnaround of 17<sup>th</sup> August was tight for a decision on the allocation of funds by the CPP Management Committee at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

Discussed the need to give longer for application thereafter though quality rather than quantity of submissions required. It was agreed to limit the length of submissions to aid decision making and so keep to August timeframe.

In answer to request for examples of submissions sought, Brian Barker suggested facilitation skills, training on the process in fund application, to keep general and develop people.

#### **(d) SIP Annual Report Letter 2004-2005**

Donald MacVicar produced a summary report by Muriel Kupris in response to the Social Inclusion Partnership Annual Report for 2004-2005 for consideration by the Management Committee and, after discussion, it was agreed that the final version be submitted on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005 setting out the main areas outlined in the report:-

- (i) to provide accountability for the SIP Fund in 2004-5;
- (ii) to highlight lessons learned in terms of individual projects and the SIP integration process;
- (iii) to feed into the development and delivery of the relevant Regeneration Outcome Agreement

#### **(e) Update by Theme Group Leaders on Progress with CPP Priorities**

##### **Health and Wellbeing Theme Group 1**

Gavin Brown spoke of the last meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Theme Group on 23<sup>rd</sup> May as being most positive and outlined his report which was previously circulated to the Management Committee.

The Group was considering how to monitor the Joint Health Improvement Plan and representatives from four of the seven Local Networks attended the Group meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May to report encouraging progress on a range of issues. The Group will invite the Networks to attend every second meeting to enable the Theme Group to monitor the Local Action Plans.

The Management Committee were informed of the work in hand to ensure implementation and monitoring of the current Health Improvement Plan and that the Theme Group would take responsibility for Section 1 – the Strategic section of the JHIP.

A decision on making an allocation from the Health Improvement Fund will be made by the Group at the next meeting on 27 June.

The Management Committee noted the intention of the Health and Wellbeing Group to hold an event in the autumn relating to the impact of alcohol and how Partners could make a difference.

### **Argyll and the Islands Local Economic Forum**

Reference the LEF's decision at the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2005 that Quarterly Reports from Argyll and the Islands LEF would be provided to the Management Committee, Ken Abernethy gave a presentation, beginning on an annual basis to give an overall picture to the Management Committee so that the most appropriate sections can be taken forward to the next meeting.

Four main points outlined were:-

- New Dunstaffnage Science Park
- Development of Air Services
- North Argyll Development Plan
- Initiative at the Edge

Discussion followed the presentation on matters such as The Construction Training College, employment in the construction related industries and the shortage of skills, Fyne Homes Training Centre, housing growth; support in tender/business stock transfer; funding to support Housing Stock Transfer Fund. Future Bidders bid had been turned down, and Ken Abernethy given contact for more information to help improve the bid.

Social Enterprise would be involved, with Islay, Coll, Gigha already included and a number of others being a high priority. Specific strategy to identify problems through community organisations would be addressed by Pat Logan's group.

It was confirmed that a document was to be drawn up with 3 groups,

including a few environmental businesses in the area.

### **Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire Local Economic Forum**

Aileen Edwards, who was unable to attend the Management Committee meeting, had previously indicated that the next meeting of the Local Economic Forum would be held on 28 June 2005 after a workshop session which would report back on what the LEF partners have achieved in terms of the Strategy over 2004-2005.

### **Sustaining & Developing our Communities, Culture & Environment Theme Group 3**

Donald MacVicar advised that there was no progress to report to the Management Committee as Theme Group 3 had not met since the last update to the Committee. The next Group meeting, to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2005, had been arranged to go over the feedback from the CPP Biennial Conference held on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **(f) Bute and Cowal Partnership Project**

David Dowie reported that the partnership had identified two capital projects to progress.

#### **(g) Citizens' Panel Report**

In Josephine Stojak's absence from the meeting, the Management Committee noted the contents of the briefing paper previously circulated to the Committee which specifically dealt with Smoking Cessation; and Men's Health.

It was noted that limited smoking cessation services were currently provided in Rothesay, Islay, Campbeltown, Oban, Mid Argyll, Dunoon and Tiree on one day per week, co-ordinated and supported by Jill Denton. Gaps in service provision are on Mull, Inveraray, Tighnabruaich and Lochgoilhead.

The undernoted work will be supported by a new Heart Health post to be funded through Managed Clinical Network - and additional Scottish Executive funding allocation of £355,000 to NHS A&C in 2005/6 to support smoking cessation work -

- support provision of sessional work in the localities by designated trained smoking cessation individuals
- maintain current services
- focus on areas where incidence of smoking is above the Scottish average
- develop services in gap areas of Mull, Mid Argyll, Colonsay, Coll and Jura

The Management Committee also noted the NHS A&C's successful bid

for funding from the Scottish Executive to develop services to improve men's health.

The focus of this work in Argyll and Bute is to be outreach and awareness, raising work building and expanding on the activities of Healthy Living Centres, involving awareness raising, information and MOT checks being offered at agricultural shows, highland games and local festivals, with more detailed assessments for those in need being provided through local primary care centres.

Information will be gathered as part of this pilot to identify gaps in current service provision and enable men to influence future developments.

#### **4. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE INITIATIVES**

There was submitted letter from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to local authority Chief Executives, enclosing the Scottish Parliament's Environment and Rural Development Committee news release in regard to the Inquiry into Economic Development in 'Accessible Rural Areas', copies of which had previously been circulated.

Brian Barker clarified that the classification of "accessible rural area" was the area within a 30 minute drive time from a population centre of more than 10,000. The area around Helensburgh was the only area in Argyll and Bute. Oban and Dunoon are close to this.

Ken Abernethy commented that the department at the Scottish Executive did not have a funding department.

It was agreed that Brian Barker would e:mail a draft response to Partners for comment. If there was consensus, the submission would be from the Community Planning Partnership. If not it would be from the Council alone.

#### **5. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP AGENDA**

The Management Committee noted that agenda items for the next meeting of the Community Planning Partnership to be held on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2005 were to be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> June and this would be issued, when finalised, on 1st July.

#### **6. ARGYLL COUNTY MAPPING PROPOSAL**

Peter Minshall presented a briefing paper, copies having been previously circulated, setting out the basis for discussion on a possible solution to improve services throughout Argyll and Bute by engaging the community effectively to introduce economies of scale, having identified duplication of effort by the use of electronic communication/interactivity.

Peter Minshall suggested that a sub-group be formed to map the Argyll and Bute area to discuss which types of groups would be included to investigate whether or not groups/individuals see the potential benefit of, and are ready for, digital communication, compiling a database of citizens and various organisations.



It was agreed that a small group, comprising Peter Minshall, Ken Abernethy, Brian Barker and Gavin Brown, with Peter leading the group, would consult widely with community groups and with potential users, bringing a report back Management Committee.

**7. AOCB**

1. Brian Barker –

- Council's Operational Services – researching a Waste Prevention Action Plan to identify wastage and potential savings
- Douglas Grierson would contact some Partners to progress this work
- Ken Abernethy asked for Douglas to contact the AIE

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 17 August at 10.30 am in the Scottish Natural Heritage Offices, Kilmory Industrial Estate.

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**ARGYLL AND BUTE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP****MINUTES of MEETING held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD on FRIDAY, 8 JULY 2005****Present:**

Councillor Allan Macaskill (Chair)	Andrew Campbell, Scottish Natural Heritage
James McLellan, Argyll and Bute Council	Ken Mactaggart, Argyll and the Isles Enterprise
Alan Milstead, Argyll and the Islands Enterprise	Brian Barker, Argyll and Bute Council
Caroline Champion, NHS Argyll & Clyde	Keith Miller, Forestry Commission Scotland
Andrew McAllister, Local Economic Forum	David Dowie, Communities Scotland
Dunbartonshire	Raymond Park, Strathclyde Police
Anne Clark, Islay & Jura CVS	Marlene Baillie, Strathclyde Police
Tom Murphy, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue	Peter Minshall, CVS Argyll and Bute Council
Pauline Borland, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue	Erik Jespersen, NHS Argyll and Clyde
James McMillan, VisitScotland	Muriel Kupris, Argyll and Bute Council
Bill Dalrymple, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs	Pat Logan, Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre
National Park Authority	Carl Olivarius, Argyll and Bute Council
David McGregor, Scottish Enterprise	Mary Louise MacQuarrie, Argyll and Bute
Dunbartonshire\Local Economic Forum	Council

**Apologies:**

Councillor Robin Banks	Alistair Oatts, Argyll & Bute Care and Repair
Lolita Lavery, Community Planning Manager	Frances Webster, Careers Scotland
Shane Rankin, Crofters Commission	Donald MacVicar, Argyll and Bute Council
Jacqui MacLeod, Crofters Commission	Mitch Roger, Strathclyde Police
Jim McCrossan, Argyll and Bute Council	Ken Abernethy, Argyll and the Isles Enterprise
George McKenzie, Bute & Cowal Project Co-ordinator	Gavin Brown, NHS Argyll & Clyde
Nick Purdy, Forestry Commission	Jim Frame, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Lesley Campbell, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority	Joyce Borthwick, Careers Scotland
Josephine Stojak, Argyll & Bute Local Health Care Co-op	Andy Law, Argyll and Bute Council
	Jim Clinton, Bute Community Links

**1. WELCOME**

Councillor Allan Macaskill welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly those attending for the first time.

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2005**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2005 were accepted as an accurate record, subject to a correction to the Theme 2 Update (Anne Campbell should read Anne Clark).

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters brought forward from the previous minutes.

#### 4. COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES

##### (a) UPDATE ON CPP PRIORITIES (THEME GROUP LEADERS)

###### **Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire Local Economic Forum**

Andrew McAllister gave a presentation on behalf of the Dunbartonshire Local Economic Forum in his capacity as Chair of the Forum (slides available on request), followed by a brief discussion about Helensburgh Waterfront and changes to European funding.

###### **Health and Wellbeing Group**

The Partnership noted a report on the activities by the Health and Wellbeing Group, presented by Caroline Champion on behalf of Gavin Brown, copies having previously been circulated.

###### **Argyll and the Isles Enterprise Local Economic Forum**

Ken Mactaggart gave a presentation on behalf of Argyll and the Isles Enterprise Local Economic Forum (slides available on request), followed by questions related to issues of boundaries and coterminosity. Andrew McAllister pointed out that SED focus on key business, as this lessens the impact of issues related to boundaries.

###### **Sustaining & Developing our Communities, Culture & Environment Group**

The Partnership noted a report on the activities of the Sustaining & Developing our Communities, Culture & Environment Group, presented by Muriel Kupris on behalf of Donald MacVicar, copies having previously been circulated.

##### (b) UPDATE ON BUTE AND COWAL AREA PARTNERSHIP

Brian Barker gave an update on the Bute and Cowal Area Partnership on behalf of George McKenzie, Bute and Cowal Project Co-ordinator, copies of the report having been circulated to the meeting. The Area Partnership is focusing on two main priority projects for the area –

1. A Family Centre located in the Burgh Hall, Dunoon in conjunction with Fyne Homes; and
2. The redevelopment of Spence Court, Dunoon following the Council's decision on the future of this site.

#### 5. CPP BIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD ON 10 JUNE 2005

Copies of the CPP Biennial Conference delegate pack, reporting on the Conference, lists of those invited and those who attended the Conference, the Presentations, outcomes from the Working Groups and details arising from these sessions, had been circulated with the agenda.

The Partnership endorsed the main outcomes of the Conference:-

1. Increasing Older Population
  - Valuing experience and age
  - Create meaningful opportunities
  - Different accountabilities and limits of partnership working

2. Declining Younger Population
  - Sustainable employment and relevant skills to support that
  - Positive identity for young people
  - Facilities and subsequent opportunities
3. Fragile Communities
  - Transport
  - Community confidence/capacity
  - Housing – land availability supporting infrastructure

These will be progressed via the various CPP groups as they review and revise their policies and strategies. The Third Theme group (Sustaining and Developing our Communities, Culture and Environment) has already started this process. The Management Committee will overview this process.

Partners were also encouraged to consider the conference outcomes as they review and revise their own strategies and plans.

Particular comments were made about the content and organisation of the conference. Particular praise was made for Colin Mair's keynote presentation where he encouraged partners to make Argyll and Bute's voice heard.

Pat Logan also asked about how the Partnership might make international links, given the recent prominence of the Make Poverty History campaign. James McLellan highlighted his interest in the topic and confirmed that he was happy to make further enquiries.

## **6. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (ANDREW CAMPBELL)**

Andrew Campbell gave an update from the Management Committee, which had met on two occasions since the last Partnership meeting.

The main items of interest were –

- the evaluation report on Better Neighbourhood Services
- discussion about capital developments and the possibility of sharing facilities
- development of criteria for the capacity building budget

Discussion also touched on Initiative at the Edge. Partners agreed that Hughie Donaldson should be contacted to explore ways of linking Initiative at the Edge to the Management Committee.

## **7. ARGYLL AND CLYDE HEALTH BOARD CONSULTATION**

Allan Macaskill confirmed to the Partnership that the consultation process had been delayed until early/mid-August. The process could take around three months to complete.

James McLellan spoke to the Partnership in regard to the Council's involvement in the consultation.

The Council has re-convened the Policy Development Group that responded to the Clinical Strategy consultation and will continue to be involved in the group developing the Health Board's Community Development Programme.

Erik Jespersen of NHS Argyll and Clyde answered questions, giving his perspective on the likely proposals on the splitting up of the former Argyll and Clyde area and the areas of accountability.

## **8. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE DESKTOP STUDY ON PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITIES (JAMES McLELLAN)**

James McLellan spoke in regard to the Scottish Executive proposal for a desktop exercise in relation to public sector reform.

Two main options had been outlined by the Executive – either adjacent local authorities taking the lead on different topics or a single public service authority for an area. The second option was promoted by Colin Mair at the Biennial Conference and is the preferred option for the Council.

Partners debated and commented on different aspects of the public service authority option and agreed to endorse this as the preferred option for Argyll and Bute and to actively pursue Partner involvement in the Executive's Desktop Strategy.

The Council has responded to other consultation to promote changes that would facilitate this process – for example, the recent decision to request a single Argyll and Bute Transportation Partnership (rather than membership of both HITRANS and WESTRANS).

## **9. AOCB**

- The Scottish Parliament is conducting an Inquiry into Economic Development in Accessible Rural Areas. The Council is formulating a submission to the Inquiry and will include comments from Partners. Partners were also encouraged to consider making a response.
- Brian Barker responded regarding Audit Scotland's Best Value Audit exercise and baseline review. The audit had just commenced and no feedback had been received on the baseline review.
- Bill Dalrymple of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority spoke of their Plan, published in May, with consultation until early September.
- Keith Miller, Forestry Commission, informed the Partnership that the Scottish Forestry Strategy was launched two weeks ago with a two-month consultation period.
- It was agreed, following the matter being raised by Andrew Campbell, that Bill Dundas, Principal Agricultural Officer at the Scottish Executive Environmental Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD), be invited to attend future Partnership meetings and that Brian Barker would issue an invitation to Bill Dundas. This would facilitate discussion within the Partnership as changes were made within the SEERAD family (SNH, SEPA, Forestry Commission, Veterinary Service, etc.)

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2005**

## CPP Management Committee

17 August 2005

### Biennial conference

The conference took place on 10 June 2005 at the Corran Halls, Oban. The conference had a broad theme based on demographics with presentations, workshops and discussion based on three main themes:

- the increasing older population
- the declining younger population
- fragile communities

### *Summary of workshop outputs*

- Increasing older population
  - Valuing experience and age
  - Create meaningful opportunities
  - Different accountabilities and limits of partnership working
- Declining younger population
  - Sustainable employment and relevant skills to support that
  - Positive identity for young people
  - Facilities and subsequent opportunities
- Fragile communities
  - Transport
  - Community confidence/capacity
  - Housing – land availability/ supporting infrastructure

The conference also included a series of presentations, including one by Colin Mair, Chief Executive of the Improvement Service. One aspect of Colin's presentation focused on the changing nature of public service organisations and the possibility of single public service authorities. The Executive are developing a desk top study to look at the future of public services. The full Community Planning Partnership has already endorsed involvement in the desk top study with a preferred approach being the single public service authority (rather than other options such as the merger of adjacent councils).

### *Future developments*

#### **Single public service authority**

The single public service authority is a proposition that the Council has continued to explore and various responses to the Executive have made reference to this as a consideration for future changes. The single authority is likely to be a significant consideration in the Council's response to the Executive's Health Board consultation – i.e. arguing for structures that would facilitate the creation of a single authority should that be the preferred future option for the Executive.

Perceived benefits from this approach are:

- higher profile and greater consideration for Argyll and Bute as an area
-

- better coordination of services across a challenging area with the prime focus as Argyll and Bute (compare with current situation where Argyll and Bute is often the difficult bit to resolve when other aspects are sorted)
- location of more senior, high earning posts in the area – which is likely to attract high quality staff and other organisations to Argyll and Bute (reducing the perception of many people that Argyll and Bute is on the fringe)
- simplification of structures and more efficient and effective use of resources to enhance service delivery to local people

Partners are encouraged to adopt a similar approach.

### **Existing priority themes**

The outputs of the conference do not suggest that there is any need to change the existing three main themes of the CPP. The outputs have relevance to each theme, but have different implications in each case.

The third theme group (Sustaining Communities, Culture and Environment) has already started to discuss the impact the conference outputs will have on their current programme of activities and future plans. The group will be focusing on:

- a) building on existing transport development programmes,
- b) how the theme group can best help the voluntary sector in trying to further develop community confidence and capacity,
- c) progress the debate on land allocations with the Council's local plan team.

Other themes have yet to indicate how the conference outputs will influence their work.

### **CPP-wide implications**

The impact of the conference on the Management Committee and full partnership have not yet been discussed. Key aims could be to:

- direct and influence activities within themes and linked partnerships
- identify areas for further attention (gaps) by partners working together or individually
- for each partner to identify actions that would help to explore and progress the outputs identified at the conference

There is also scope to explore public reaction to the conference outputs using the Citizens Panel.

#### **Brian Barker**

Policy & Strategy Manager

Argyll and Bute Council

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4 August 2005

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## **Briefing Note: Themes for Citizen's Panel**

**FAO:** CPP management committee

### **Key Points**

- We are looking to develop themes for the 9<sup>th</sup> Citizen's Panel. Some themes have been suggested and it would be useful to see if there are any others that might be added.
- Past themes
- Current suggestions

### **Background Information**

#### **Previous themes**

The previous themes explored via the Citizen's Panel were:

1. Satisfaction with public services in Argyll.
2. How do you get about?
3. Environmental issues
4. Education, Training and Skills Development, Library Services and Review of Council Services
5. Improved access to public services
6. General health and well-being, Health issues for Argyll and Bute Healthcare services in remote and rural areas Marine environment
7. Community planning, housing and community safety
8. Community safety, health and wellbeing, volunteering and equalities.

#### **Suggested themes**

These are some themes that have been suggested so far and some ideas of how we might explore them through the Citizen's Panel.

- Council tax value for money
- Testing the CPP conference outputs with the Citizen's Panel
- Transportation Strategy
- Acceptance of increased council tax for improved services
- The forthcoming Health Board consultation
- Consultation surrounding the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park
- Single public service authority
  - Explore public perception and understanding of having all public services provided by a single body within one clearly defined boundary
  - Explore public perception and understanding of coterminosity of existing separate public service authority boundaries
  - how best to describe coterminosity to the public
  - how people feel currently about the provision of public services through multiple bodies and across differing boundaries
  - are there any issues arising from multiple service providers
  - are public aware of who does what
  - public awareness of public authority boundaries
  - issues arising from lack of coterminosity
- Living Landmarks
  - Living Landmarks is a Big Lottery Fund programme with the following priorities;
  - Projects should be inspirational and innovative in design and have a regional impact, such as Millennium Coastal Park, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Halls, Falkirk Wheel.
  - They must involve the community and serve an identified need

- With this in mind we would include questions in the citizens panel that begin to address the requirement to include the community in the development of the living landmark.
- We would want to investigate people's views on what would be a good choice for a living land mark.
- How to make an inspirational gesture and where?
- What such a project would do for them?

**Other themes that could be explored.**

Are there any further themes that could be explored?

**Contact:** Andy McKay-Hubbard, Research and Information Officer. 01546 604472  
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# Argyll and Bute Council

Rural Development Inquiry Submission July 2005



**Leading Rural Area**



## Introduction.

Argyll and Bute is unique in that it contains examples of all classifications of rurality. It is a hybrid, combining urban areas bordering on Glasgow with extremely remote rural areas including an array of islands. There are accessible rural areas within Argyll and Bute, around Helensburgh and around Dunoon. There is also an emerging accessible rural area around the growing town of Oban.

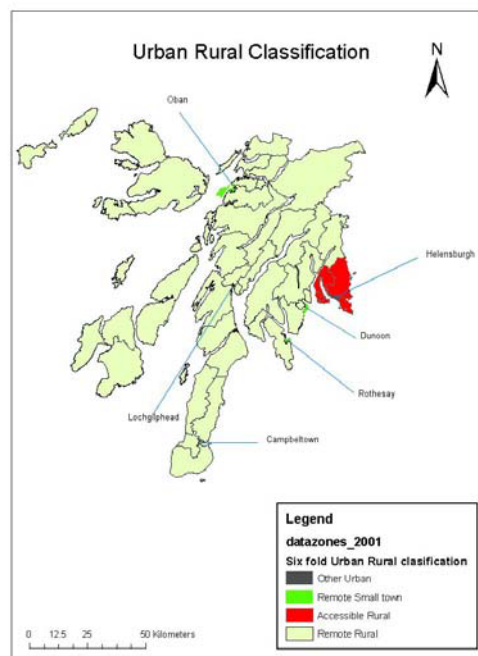
This document is submitted by Argyll and Bute Council with contributions from the Community Planning Partnership. It will focus on the Helensburgh Accessible Rural Area and briefly describe the Dunoon and Oban accessible rural areas.

## Argyll and Bute.

Argyll and Bute is a study in diversity covering 10% of the Scottish land mass. The population of 91,306 is spread over the second largest council area in Scotland. The area has six towns, 25 inhabited islands and over 4,500km of coastline – more than the entire coastline of France.

Having extremely remote island communities at one extreme and urban centres adjacent to Glasgow at the other makes it difficult to define Argyll and Bute in terms of Urban or Rural. The everyday life of someone living on the Island of Colonsay is vastly different than an individual living in Helensburgh, the area's largest urban centre. The provision of services that may be taken for granted by urban residents, are a matter of serious trial for some rural communities. Conversely, the rural communities' access to green space and the area's outstanding biodiversity are the envy of many urban dwellers. A thorough understanding of these differences is essential to developing policy and delivering services within Argyll and Bute.

The map shows Argyll and Bute in terms of the Scottish Executives Urban Rural classifications. The area in red is the Accessible Rural Area around Helensburgh. Oban is shown as a Remote Small Town, in green, as is Dunoon.



## Helensburgh area

Helensburgh, (c 14,000), Argyll and Bute's most populous town is very much an urban community. However, within 30 minutes drive of Helensburgh there is a large expanse of sparsely populated rural land. While at once being within a relatively short distance from the urban area, it is also very much a rural area with all settlements significantly smaller in population than 3000. The physical geography of the area, adds to the sense of remoteness and does create access issues. The population of the Accessible Rural Area around Helensburgh was 13183 in 2001. The largest settlement is Cardross with a population of just under 2000.

## Access

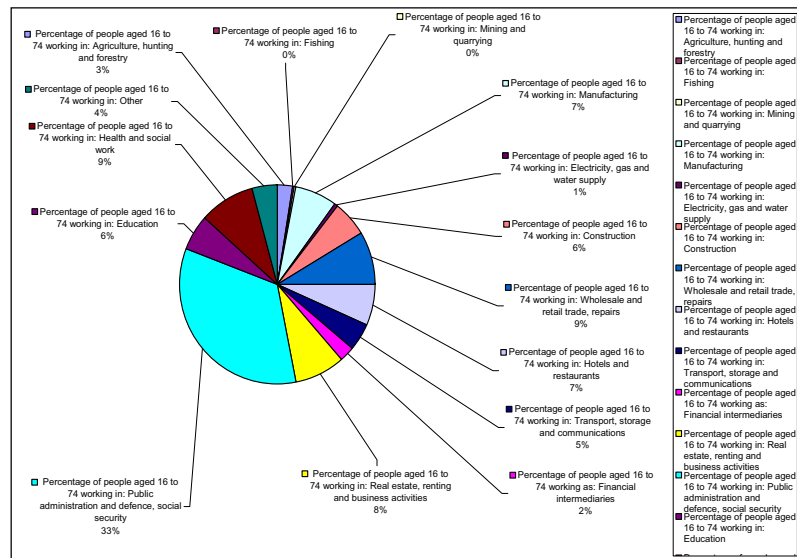
Transport links in the area are somewhat mixed. There is a rail link which connects the villages of Arrochar, Garelochhead and those along the coasts of Loch Long and Loch Gare, with Helensburgh. There are also several bus services; however the physical nature of the area means that land links are seldom direct and the roads are often difficult for drivers. The main trunk road, the A82 along Loch Lomond provides a reasonably direct link to the greater Glasgow area. As is often the case in rural Argyll, car ownership is proportionally high as people are less able to rely on public transport.

The proportion of households without access to a car or van is lower (19.15%) than the Argyll and Bute average (28%). Households that have access to two or more cars make up 35.14% of all households, a higher figure compared to Argyll and Bute as a whole (25%). More people use the train to travel to work or study, compared to the council average. The rail service is set to be increased through the provision of an early morning train intended to allow people resident in the periphery of the area to commute to Glasgow for work.

### Economy

The working age population (aged 16-74) of the area is 9400 with an average unemployment level among economically active persons of 3.4%. A large proportion of employment is attributed to the Public Administration and Defence sector. Much of this is due to the presence of Clyde Naval base and other MOD installations. However there is a heavy reliance on public sector employment in general. This single sector reliance can leave the economy vulnerable to sudden changes in employment levels.

The chart shows employment by industry type. The accessibility of the region lends itself to servicing a commuter population who may work within the Glasgow Urban Area. Thus a high proportion of resident's economic activity occurs outside the area, yet this section of the population has an economic impact in terms of service and infrastructure provision. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest



that the commuter population spend significant sums within the area of their work as opposed to the area in which they live, thus further depriving the area of economic activity.

The table below shows the 2003 CACI household income statistics for the four wards that comprise the Accessible Rural area.

Ward	Households	Mean	Median	Mode
Garelochhead and Cove	1074	£29600	£20-25k	£15-20k
Arrochar, Luss, Arden and Ardenconnel	1086	£34100	£25-30k	£20-25k
Roseneath, Clynder and Kilcreggan	1153	£29300	£30-35k	£15-20k
Cardross	936	£35500	£30-35k	£20-25k

While the mean values suggest a positive picture in terms of household incomes , the mode and median show that there is a clustering of incomes around the lower end that has been offset by relatively few higher income households. This shows the impact that high income earners can have on an area in terms of how affluent it appears to be.

### Deprivation

Deprivation is often overlooked in rural areas and difficult to assess when it is investigated. Access and housing deprivation are areas of high concern and need to be addressed. Income deprivation can also be an issue and is difficult to spot in areas like this where seasonal employment often fills gaps, but still does not provide adequate income. The access issues

lead to a reliance on private transport and this in turn impacts on household budgets, reducing disposable income.

## **Housing**

There is a lack of affordable housing across the area and this is exacerbated by the increasing commuter market. Argyll and Bute has experienced the highest rise in house prices across Scotland in the past year and the Helensburgh and Lomond area is no exception, indeed the new National Park may lead to even greater demand for second homes and inflated local house prices. Improved rail links to Glasgow may well contribute to a continued house price increase in the area as high income commuters begin to move in. Second home ownership is also putting a strain on the housing market in terms of affordable housing. This then has a detrimental effect on the economy as people find it increasingly difficult to afford to live and work in the area.

## **Around Dunoon**

Though Dunoon itself has a population of less than 10000 ( population 8251) its direct access by ferry to the periphery of the greater Glasgow conurbation suggests that it would make sense to view it as an urban centre in itself. Within 10 to 30 minutes of Dunoon is an accessible rural area of considerable size, including a variety of small towns and lesser settlements. The area is located on the Cowal peninsula, an area of land almost physically disconnected from the rest of the Argyll and Bute. The same issues as described for the Helensburgh Accessible Rural area hold for Dunoon. There are areas of rural deprivation, there is a lack of affordable housing and there are high numbers of commuters whose economic activity is carried out externally. Additionally all hospital treatment, other than minor matters or consultations, requires a ferry crossing to Gourock then ambulance/train/bus to the designated hospital.

## **Around Oban**

The town of Oban, with a population of 8120, is currently experiencing growth which is bringing it closer to the scale of Urban centre than Accessible small town. It is logical then to regard the area around Oban as becoming an accessible rural area. This area differs dramatically from the others described and probably all others in Scotland, in that it is remote from the major urban centres of Scotland. Here the issue of commuters and their external economic activity is not apparent. However, there is still an issue of affordable housing, mainly driven by the second home market. There is also a need to continue this growth by encouraging further investment and job creation in Oban and the surrounding area. Affordable housing and infrastructure investment within the surrounding communities is required in order to maintain them alongside the growing urban centre.

Oban is the main port for the area with ferry services to islands within Argyll and Bute and the western isles. The surrounding rural area is remote or very remote with very few settlements of notable size, thus Oban is a strong economic focus for the area. The impact of investment in Oban would thus be spread over a large rural hinterland. This would contribute to creating a strong and sustainable economic base that would not be reliant on neighbouring urban regions.

## **National Factors**

How these issues are reflected in government policy stems initially from how they are reported. The SIMD data that supports policy decisions, though valuable, is flawed in some aspects relating to rural communities. The main issues are with the measurement of Geographic and Telecommunications Access Domain and the Income Domain.

### **Geographic and Telecommunications Access Domain**

At present, the Geographic and Telecommunications Access domain does not make allowances for people who do not have access to a car. Some measure of travel times via public transport would be beneficial and complement drive time data. This would also give greater weight to the significant proportion of the population who have no access to the car.

The SIMD focuses on basic services when assessing access deprivation. This is problematic because, as soon as residents are required to leave the immediate community (e.g. for supermarket shopping or hospital appointments), travel times increase considerably. Inclusion of a few higher-level services would help redress this balance.

## **Current Income Deprivation**

There is more seasonal working in Argyll and Bute, particularly in the peripheral areas. The implication is that employment rates will be at their highest in the summer months. This coincides with the dates at which this SIMD data is collected, thereby possibly overestimating income levels in these areas.

The use of benefits data, rather than paycheck data, also raises concerns. Rural populations are less likely to claim benefits to which they are entitled than are their urban counterparts (see e.g. Philips and Shucksmith, 2003). This measure, therefore, disadvantages rural populations. (This may be, in part, due to their limited access to information, an issue touched upon above.) Many observers would expect an income data domain to include income data, but this is not the case in the SIMD.

Coarse figures showing employment statistics also mask the fact that where there is a high commuter population, simple levels of employment do not give an accurate view of the health of the local economy.

The move away from an urban biased understanding of deprivation to include a rural aspect is laudable and this needs to be upheld and broadened. This is linked to the method of measurement highlighted, but extends also to the focus of funding.

## **Recommendations**

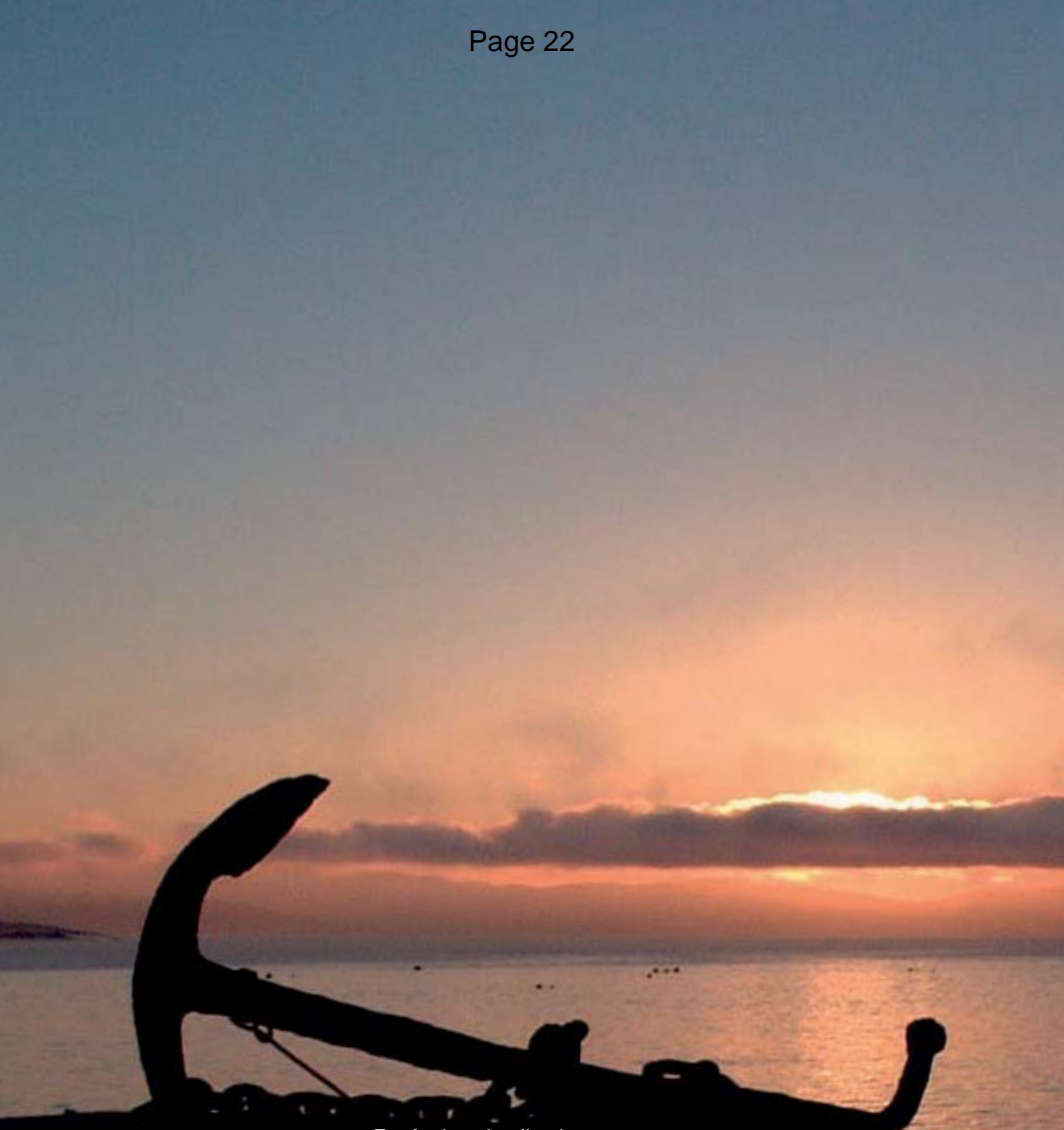
The following are recommendations based on the above analysis:

- Policy and funding initiatives should aim to develop support for local communities and the local economies.
- There is a need for a continued focus on housing issues, particularly the supply of suitable land and infrastructure, supporting areas like Argyll and Bute to provide affordable housing.
- Commitment to local service provision by providers who understand the local needs, including the Scottish Executive through its policy to relocate urban jobs to more rural areas of Scotland.
- Improved understanding of the uniqueness of Argyll and Bute and recognising that policy initiatives need to be carefully framed to avoid inadvertently disadvantaging the area.

Specifically, in terms of SIMD data the inclusion / reintroduction of at least some of the following measures of access deprivation would be welcomed:

- Access to acute hospital services
- Access to banks / building societies
- Access to secondary education
- Access to Job Centre Plus
- Less reliance on benefits data and the inclusion of paycheck data.
- An examination of travel time that accounts for the reality of using ferries and the nature of local roads and driving conditions.
- The inclusion of public transport in access data.

The importance of understanding the interplay of rural and urban areas within Argyll and Bute should not be underestimated and should be factored into policy. It would be beneficial if policy developments complemented the concept of a Public Service Authority.



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