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**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

27 September 2006

A meeting of the **CPP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** will be held in the **SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE OFFICES, KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LOCHGILPHEAD** on **WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2006** at **10:30 AM**.

AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES**
- 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 AUGUST 2006**(Pages 1 - 8)
- 3. MATTERS ARISING**
- 4. REVIEW OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
 - (a) Clarify duties expected of Chair - Report by Community Planning Manager (Pages 9 - 12)
 - (b) Appoint Vice-Chair of Community Planning Partnership Management Committee
- 5. BIG LOTTERY FUND - ESTABLISHING LOCAL PARTNERSHIP HUB**
Report by Arlene Cullum (Pages 13 - 14)
- 6. COMMUNITY PLANNING ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT (EILEEN WILSON) (REF MAN CTEE 28 JUNE 06)**
 - (a) Annual Report (to be tabled at meeting)
 - (b) The Future Community Plan Proposal (Pages 15 - 16)
- 7. PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM - TRANSFORMING PUBLIC SERVICES (SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE)**
Report by Brian Barker (Pages 17 - 20)

8. CAPACITY BUILDING FUND EVALUATION - REPORT BY COMMUNITY PLANNING MANAGER

(a) Evaluations (Pages 21 - 26)

(b) Volunteer Scotland Lottery Application (Verbal Report by Arlene Cullum)

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES

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

- Health & Wellbeing Theme Group 1 (Elaine Garman) (Pages 27 – 30)
- Argyll and the Islands Local Economic Forum (Alan Milstead) (Pages 31 – 32)
- Dunbartonshire Economic Forum (Aileen Edwards)
- Housing and Communities Theme Group 3 (Donald MacVicar)

(b) Initiative at the Edge (Hugh Donaldson)

10. AOCB

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6 DECEMBER 2006

**MINUTES of MEETING of CPP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held in the SCOTTISH
NATURAL HERITAGE OFFICES, KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LOCHGILPHEAD
on WEDNESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2006**

- Present:** Brian Barker, Argyll and Bute Council (acting Chair)
Aileen Edwards, Scottish Enterprise
Peter Minshall, ACVS-representing VC and CVSs in Argyll & Bute
Donald MacVicar, Argyll and Bute Council
Julian Hankinson, Association of Argyll and Bute Community
Councils
David Dowie, Communities Scotland
Marlene Baillie, Strathclyde Police
Jim Jones, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
Geoff Calvert, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
Josephine Stojak, NHS Highland
Raymond Park, Strathclyde Police
Alan Milstead, Highlands & Islands Enterprise
- In Attendance:** Jenny Pollard, Argyll and Bute Council
- Apologies:** Andrew Campbell, Scottish Natural Heritage (Chair)
Eileen Wilson, Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership
Elaine Garman, NHS Highland
Mike Firth, Scottish Water
Deborah Bryce, Initiative at the Edge
Chris Nisbet, Initiative at the Edge
James McLellan, Argyll and Bute Council
Bill Dundas, SEERAD
Jane Fowler, Argyll and Bute Council
Muriel Kupris, Argyll and Bute Council
Patricia Logan, Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Brian Barker took the Chair in the absence of Andrew Campbell and James McLellan and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 28 June 2006 were accepted as an accurate record.

3. MATTER ARISING

a) Update on Evaluation of Bute and Cowal Area Partnership:

The management committee considered paper by Brian Barker, Shirley MacLeod and Eileen Wilson, copies of which had previously been circulated, outlining proposals for the future development of the Bute and Cowal Local Community Planning Pilot. It was noted that the Area Partners met on 4th August 2006 and

agreed to a new set of objectives for the Area Partnership to broaden community involvement, have a local influence on service provision and to identify areas of concern and address these via CPP partners.

The new process would comprise two events as workshops/seminars each year, timed to influence the planning and budget setting cycles of the main partners. There would be a small core group to plan and manage the seminars – led by the coordinator for the Area Partnership and meetings between the seminars would be held to focus on particular topics or issues. These could be:

- Ad hoc time limited groups of particular groups/organisations focused on issues identified by those bodies as a common concern to be addressed
- More formal meetings of partners to consider broader or more complex issues that need more concerted effort

The management committee discussed the bodies to be involved and it was noted that Shirley MacLeod would be contacting Partners to co-ordinate invitations. The first workshop/seminar will take place on 1st December 2006.

b) Update on Scottish Rural Development Plan Consultation

A letter dated 3rd July 2006 had been sent to the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department highlighting the issues in the consultation document and suggesting that the Partnership takes a leading role in the management of rural development funding. No response had been received from the Executive.

4. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 7TH JULY 2006

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Community Planning Partnership held on 7th July 2006 were noted.

5. MATTER ARISING

The management committee were pleased to note that Scottish Water had attended the Partnership meeting on 7th July 2006 and that Scottish Water were willing to develop a dialogue with the Partnership. They would be presenting action plan details to the Partnership at their next meeting on 10th November 2006.

Brian Barker advised that Waterwatch Scotland had met with the senior members and officers group of the Council on 22nd August 2006. The discussion was considered constructive and officers noted a number of points to follow up in the provision of information to Waterwatch Scotland.

6. CORE PATH PLANNING

Jenny Pollard, Access Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, provided a presentation on the Council's approach to core path planning, to raise awareness through the Community Planning Partnership of the process and its aims and objectives. The Council have a statutory duty under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, which was introduced in February 2005, to prepare a Core Path Plan by February 2008.

The core paths, consisting of existing and new walkways, cycle and bridal paths, would be a network catering for the access needs of all users.

Discussion followed regarding the right of public access, the creation of an outdoor access code with statutory duties and powers placed on local/national park authorities, for the promotion of access and reducing the potential for conflict.

The core path planning process would involve significant consultation with key stakeholders and the Council's Local Plan, which had recently been finalised, would incorporate the Core Path Plan in future revision of the Local Plan. The Core Path Plan is co-ordinated by the Local Access Forum.

The Management Committee agreed that the Access Forum should liaise as appropriate with other groups and partnerships, rather than be linked via one direct route. Groups who are likely to have an interest are the Health & Wellbeing Group, the Agricultural Forum, Housing & Communities (see later item) and Public Health networks.

Jenny agreed that the Council would keep the Partnership advised on the timing for consultations so that issues of concern can be raised through liaison between the Council and the Partnership Groups as to how to take this forward, with a report back to the Management Committee on any significant issues either after the 2nd Consultation or at the Draft Plan stage.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES

- Update by Theme Group Leaders on Progress with CPP Priorities –

- (a) **Health and Wellbeing Theme Group 1:** The meeting noted the report from Elaine Garman, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Theme Group, copies having previously been circulated.

The Health and Wellbeing Theme Group was in the process of updating progress on the implementation of the JHIP Strategic Action Plan. This would be brought to the CPP Management Committee at a future date.

With regard to the request from the CPP Management Committee to consider whether we should be merging with any existing groups in the Community Health Partnership - it was felt by the HWTG that the group exists to cover activities that do not happen in other groups, that there isn't duplication and that the role of the HWTG was to provide added value through partnership working. The Theme Group would discuss this with the new CHP General Manager, Fiona Ritchie when she comes into post in October 2006 and provide further feedback to the CPP Management Committee.

Josephine Stojak confirmed that her involvement with the Partnership was changing because of her new role. She would now only attend for specific issues. The Management Committee conveyed their thanks to Josephine for her input to the Partnership.

- (b) **Argyll and the Islands Local Economic Forum:** The Argyll and the Islands LEF had not met since the date of the last Management Committee meeting.
- (c) **Dunbartonshire Economic Forum:** Aileen Edwards, Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire updated the Management Committee on the progress being made by Dunbartonshire Economic Forum and advised that their strategy would be launched on 7th September 2006. Aileen also advised that her future role with the

Partnership was uncertain due to the restructuring of Scottish Enterprise.

(d) Sustaining and Developing our Communities, Culture and Environment Theme Group 3: The Third Theme Group had not met on 27 July 2006.

Eileen Wilson had circulated note on A New Approach for the 3rd Theme Group following the meeting held on 21st August 2006 of the group tasked to look at the situation and make recommendations. The note detailed the current position and the proposal that the Third Theme Group be partly absorbed into the existing Strategic Housing Forum. New members for the broader Strategic Housing Forum (drawn from existing Theme Group 3) would be –

- SEPA
- Scottish Water
- Forestry Commission
- AliEnergy
- Community Regeneration (with respect to reporting on CRF)
- Crofters Commission

It was noted that the current Strategic Housing Forum would meet on 8th September 2006.

Discussion took place regarding direct reporting to the Management Committee via Malcolm MacFadyen, Head of Planning and Performance, in his capacity of lead service officer for the Forum. David Dowie offered to report on behalf of the Group but, given Malcolm's willingness to feedback on behalf of the Group, it was agreed to proceed with Malcolm reporting back at first. The Community Regeneration Fund and ROA's would still be managed by the Community Learning and Regeneration Strategic Board with accountability to the Management Committee and full CPP via Donald MacVicar as Head of Community Regeneration.

Other topics –

- Natural heritage and Sustainable Development (excluding renewables) -This can be addressed via existing groups that report as required to the Management Committee or CPP. These groups include the Biodiversity Partnership and the Agricultural Forum.
- Cultural Issues – addressed via the Argyll and Bute Cultural Strategy (developed by a working group drawn from relevant partners) Future development could be addressed in the same way. Accountability to the CPP could be via Donald MacVicar as the Councils service head on this topic.
- Transport – now addressed via the Rural Transport Partnership (HiTrans and SPFT) and the Local Transport Strategy. Links to the Community Planning Partnership are currently good and the Group agreed that future links should be to the Management Committee, given the significance of this topic.

The Management Committee agreed that the merger of the Theme Group and the Strategic Housing Forum should result in a group called "Housing and Communities Group" to indicate the broadened remit but the statutory responsibilities would remain. The change is subject to agreement by the Strategic Housing Forum.

8. YOUTH PARTICIPATION CONFERENCE REPORT

Brian Barker advised that Eileen Wilson would report on the Youth Participation Conference at the next meeting.

9. CITIZENS' PANEL

The management committee discussed the outline for the 11th Citizens' Panel Questionnaire for the survey to be conducted in September 2006, copies having previously been circulated, outlining the themes and the focus of questions. It was noted that any changes or additions to the proposed outline should be submitted to Andy McKay-Hubbard, Argyll and Bute Council, andy.mckay-hubbard@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

10. EQUALITIES

Copies had previously been circulated of reports by Jennifer Swanson, Argyll and Bute Council on (a) Equalities Challenge – South Kintyre Pilot Project, (b) Equality and Diversity Scheme – Consultation and Engagement, and (c) Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit.

(a) Equalities Challenge – South Kintyre Pilot Project

The report circulated in regard to the Equalities Challenge for the South Kintyre pilot project outlined the findings by ODS Consultants with recommendations for effectively involving people with Additional Support Needs (ASN) in Community Planning in South Kintyre and gained a clearer understanding of the local groups involving people with ASN, e.g. physical disabilities, learning difficulties, mental health difficulties, or alcohol or drug addiction issues.

The recommendation to the Partnership was for strengthening the Kintyre Community Care Forum to act as the route for involving people with ASN in Community Planning and, to enable it to perform this role support was requested for a part-time worker to co-ordinate and support it for a year. Links would then be further developed with the other six Community Care Forums in Argyll and Bute.

		<u>Source</u>
Co-ordinator / Adviser (1 day/week for 36 weeks)	£3,000	CPP-HIF*
Publicity materials, training, evaluation meeting	£1,500	SKCLP**
Travel expenses (to support attendance at meetings)	<u>£1,000</u>	SKCLP**
	Total: <u>£5,500</u>	

*CPP-HIF = Community Planning Partnership - Health Improvement Fund (bid to be made)

**SKCLP = South Kintyre Community Learning Partnership

A copy of the full report is available from Grace Leitch, grace.leitch@argyll-bute.gov.uk
For further details of the scheme contact Jennifer Swanson, jennifer.swanson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

(b) Equality and Diversity Scheme

Having regard to the statutory duty for the Council, along with other public authorities, to produce a Race Equality Scheme and a Disability Equality Scheme and, from April 2007, to produce a Gender Equality Scheme, the report circulated to the management committee set out the Council's plans and action to date to produce an Equality and Diversity Scheme to incorporate all equality strands. The

scheme would incorporate the three duties - Race, Disability and Gender – plus other equality strands – age, belief and sexual orientation.

It was recommended that officers in each organisation who are responsible for producing equality schemes co-ordinate activities to engage with people in the development of these schemes. Partners were encouraged to make contact with Jennifer Swanson on this topic.

Contact: Jennifer Swanson, Policy and Strategy, jennifer.swanson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

(c) Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit

The report circulated explained that Statutory Duties to promote Race Equality and Disability Equality require the Council, and other public authorities, to carry out impact assessments of policies and functions. The report also provided the background to Equality Impact Assessments, the benefits of the Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit and described the toolkit produced by Argyll and Bute Council. Community Planning Partners were encouraged to make use of the toolkit.

For a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment toolkit, please contact Grace Leitch, grace.leitch@argyll-bute.gov.uk

For further details of the scheme toolkit, please contact Jennifer Swanson, jennifer.swanson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

11. GRANTNET

A report by Arlene Cullum, Corporate Funding Officer, Argyll and Bute Council, had been circulated to inform the partnership of the strategic nature of the capacity building projects Grantfinder and Grantnet – two internet based software packages designed to search and source up to date funding information; demonstrate shared resourcing and partnership working; and encourage interest in and use of the Grantnet software. The system is operated simply by searching by postcode for information before contact made with the Corporate Funding Officer.

Cost	yr1	yr2	yr3
Grantnet annual licence =	£1,300	£1,300	£1,300
Grantfinder annual licence =	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400
one-off set up fee for branding =	£ 500		
Totals	£4,200	£3,700	£3,700

Total 3 year project costs are £11,600 and split equally between three agencies is £1,289 pa or £107 per month. This figure will of course change if more or fewer agencies make contributions.

Arlene Cullum is working with partners to develop this and partners were invited to contribute to the project.

For further details please contact Arlene Cullum, arlene.cullum@argyll-bute.gov.uk

12. CUSTOMER CONTACT CENTRE

Brian Barker confirmed that Stephen Whiston, NHS and Murdina MacDonald, AIE would represent the Partnership on the Project Board which had not met since the last

management committee meeting. A meeting of the Project Board was scheduled for 31st August 2006. There would be a report back to the management committee at their next meeting in October 2006.

13. OFFICE RATIONALISATION

There had been circulated to the management committee, by way of sharing information, report by Argyll and Bute Council on the Council's Asset Register and Proposed Property Options Development Methodology, identifying the project methodology which would be used to undertake the initial options development process for Campbeltown, Helensburgh and Oban office rationalisation projects.

Partners were asked to contact Sandy MacTaggart, Head of Facility Services, direct – sandy.mactaggart@argyll-bute.gov.uk

14. PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM – Transforming Public Services (Scottish Executive)

Following discussion regarding public sector reform, the Partners agreed to seek the Council's views on the matter of Shared Services and as to the Council's expectations of partners as clarity for engagement is required. A paper will be presented at the next meeting.

The Scottish Executive website for accessing the consultation paper on Public Sector Reform – Transforming Public Services – can be viewed at <http://search.scotland.gov.uk/search/pages/search/basic.asp?QuerySubmit=true&Paging=true&Page=1&QueryText=Transform+Public+Services>

15. REVIEW CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Andrew Campbell's report in respect of the management committee chairperson's role was submitted.

It was agreed that Andrew Campbell be asked to continue as Chair for a further year and that a Vice-Chair should be appointed. The Vice-Chair would take the role of Chair at the end of the Vice-Chair term.

It was felt that by continuing Andrew's chairmanship this would cover the period over the next Council election and also allow time for the Chair to give guidance to the Vice-Chair before the changeover in October 2007.

The management committee agreed that the role of chairperson should rotate amongst the partners and after discussion agreed that in the future the period of office be on a 2-year cycle.

It was also agreed that at the next meeting the management committee would clarify what duties are expected of the Chair and appoint a Vice-Chair. Eileen Wilson will prepare a paper for the next meeting.

16. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

(a) Argyll CVS

Peter Minshall reported the transfer of the new website and contact database for the Argyll and Bute area to CVS.

(b) SCVO

The SCVO are running an event in Tarbert on Tuesday, 26th September 2006 from 12.30 pm to 3.00 pm. They are looking for representatives from 8 community organisations. Brian suggested a contact with the Youth Forum.

(c) Financial support from partner organisations to Community Planning Partnership

Brian Barker reported that Careers Scotland would no longer be contributing to Community Planning.

Alan Milstead questioned the method of requests for funding contributions from Partners by the Council. The amounts had been agreed at an earlier Management Committee meeting (7th December 2005) and were frozen at the same level. Brian Barker agreed to contact Ken Abernethy to provide clarification.

Questions were also raised about the relationship between the Council and Community Planning Manager post. There is inevitably a link between the two, given the Council's role as host organisation. The links between the Community Planning Partnership and Council would have appeared closer in the past 12-18 months because of the effective lack of a Community Planning Manager and cover being provided by Brian Barker of Argyll and Bute Council.

The induction process for Eileen Wilson as new Community Planning Manager had included discussion of this aspect, the supporting role across all partners and the need to differentiate the Community Planning Partnership from all partner organisations.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, 4th October 2006

Chair of CPP Management Committee

SUMMARY

Argyll and Bute Council have the statutory task of leading the Community Planning Partnership. The Council Leader chairs the full Partnership. This paper sets out proposals for the role of the Chair and Vice-chair of the CPP Management Committee. In addition it outlines some existing and proposed relationships underpinning the CPP and proposes an organisational schedule for the positions of Chair and Vice-chair.

RECOMMENDATION

Partners are asked to approve the following proposals.

- The chair of the Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership Management Committee should rotate amongst the partners for a term of 2 years.
- The chair would not be a Council representative, because Council already chairs the full CPP
- The Vice-chair would deputise for the chair and take on the role of the chair when the Chair retires.

The attached table proposes the organisational schedule taking us to 2021, giving each partner organisation the opportunity to take on the role of Vice-chair and then Chair of the CPP Management Committee.

DETAIL

The Chair of the Management Committee has a very strong influence on the effectiveness of the CPP and should therefore be someone with strategic vision who can ensure that meetings are conducted effectively and efficiently with each partner playing a full part. The Chair should be based in Argyll and Bute and have a good knowledge of the challenges facing the area.

The Chair approves the agenda drafted by the CP Manager. However, this is not always feasible given the nature of the CPP and commitments of the Chair to their normal work. The creation of a Vice-chair role will enable the Chair to share some of the tasks involved. The CP Manager will also support where required.

The Chair and Vice Chair need to establish a working relationship, making best use of the knowledge and experience of both and realistic in terms of time and availability.

The CP Manger will brief the Chair and Vice Chair on the strategic issues covered by the agenda and any sensitivities they need to be aware of. The Council provides Administrative support for the Management Committee.

The CP Manager will keep the Chair and Vice Chair informed of any last minute items/changes to the agenda. If a subject is controversial, the CP Manager will discuss possible approaches with the Chair.

TASKS - Chair generally

Essential

1. Agree the agenda for meetings, with the support of the CP Manager, taking account of recommendations from partners and requests from other organisations.
2. Involve the Vice-chair so that they are in a position to act if the Chair is not available.
3. Act as link person between partners and Committee in conjunction with CP Manager.
4. Liaise with the Chair of the full CPP.
5. Represent the Management Committee at full CPP and biennial conference.
6. Approve the minutes in their final form.

Desirable

7. Represent the CPP to outside bodies, at public events and meetings.
8. Sign sensitive letters on behalf of the CPP.
9. Ensure that decisions taken by the Management Committee have a strategic focus, are action orientated and that actions are evaluated.

TASKS - Chair of Meetings

1. Control order and development of meetings, making sure that meetings start on time and proceed according to the agenda and enough time is allocated to each item.
2. Ensure partners participation in and between meetings, making sure everyone gets a chance to air their views and no one dominates.
3. Make sure decisions are made, and agreed, and summarised so everyone understands.
4. Ensure necessary action is agreed, including agreement on who is responsible for delivery.
5. Draw out consensus of opinion on key topics so that action can be agreed and allocated.

The Chair must be seen to be:

Fair: Have a sense of impartiality and treat each contribution as being equally important and must not take sides.

Firm: If rules/practices are breached and things are getting out of hand, the Chair must take appropriate steps to keep the meeting together.

Sensitive: Look for hidden disagreements and undercurrents and actively encourage all members to participate fully.

Neutral: Only voice her/his opinion if it is a view that has not been stated or if additional information needs to be given to support more effective decision making.

Support

The Community Planning Manager will support the Chair and Vice-chair by:

1. Highlighting relevant issues and bringing them to the attention of the Chair and Vice-chair.
2. Supporting the CPP Management Committee to organise its structure and plan the workload to meet its responsibilities.
3. Monitoring the network of groups and partnerships linked to the CPP.
4. Encouraging partners to participate fully.
5. Sharing vision and involving others in achieving it.
6. Ensuring everyone who wishes to has access to information and has no barriers to participation in meetings.
7. Keeping in close contact with other CPP's and CPP support networks.
8. Establishing a complementary role to the chair and vice-chair.
9. Taking action if specifically requested by the CPP Management Committee or in exceptional circumstances when action is needed at short notice to progress a topic of interest to Argyll and Bute. In these circumstances, the Chair and/or the Vice Chair will be consulted if available.

Organisation	2006	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
SNH	CHAIR								
Strathclyde Police	VICE-CHAIR	CHAIR							
NHS Highland		VICE-CHAIR	CHAIR						
SEERAD			VICE-CHAIR	CHAIR					
Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire				VICE-CHAIR	CHAIR				
Strathclyde Fire and Rescue					VICE-CHAIR	CHAIR			
Association of Community Councils						VICE-CHAIR	CHAIR		
Argyll & the Islands Enterprise							VICE-CHAIR	CHAIR	
Initiative on the Edge								VICE-CHAIR	CHAIR
Federation of CVS's									VICE-CHAIR

Eileen Wilson
Community Planning Manager
18 September 2006

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BLF Local Partnership Hub Paper to CPP September 2006

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide information on the establishment of Big Lottery Fund *local partnership hubs* in order that the CPP Management Committee can discuss this and feed back their views to Argyll & Bute Council's Corporate Funding Officer. You may wish to consider the following questions:

- What do we want from the Hub?**
- What other benefits can we achieve?**
- Who needs to be involved in the Hub?**
- Are there other options we should explore?**
- How should the Hub be implemented?**
- Any other comments/suggestions?**

Background

Through consultation the BLF are developing *local partnership hubs* instead of the former three-way-agreement which existed between the Council, the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) and the then Community Fund. The *local partnership hubs* proposed, at their simplest, are a way of:

- ensuring that information about BLF funding initiatives and information about local beneficiaries, reaches a wide range of interests and more importantly;
- that BLF is better able to understand the funding needs of Argyll & Bute and its local funding priorities such as those of the Community Planning Partnership; and
- through the hub and member exchanges BLF would hope to encourage a more strategic approach in making funding requests to BLF. This would not be designed to limit or inhibit individual applications but be an attempt to deliver lottery funding where it can add most value.

Detail

The establishment of *local partnership hubs* has many benefits which include

- Ensure funding meets priorities of CPP
- Maximise funding into Argyll & Bute through intelligent investment (eg. appropriate match funding)
- Maximise resources through partnership working - savings
- Streamline funding deadlines and information required with external funders
- Partnership with BLF to ensure needs understood and funding is targeted
- Info on who receiving funding for forward planning

BLF has suggested the following partners which are mainly represented through the CPP. It would therefore make sense to have the local partnership hub within the CPP structure.

- CPP, Council External Funding Officer, CVS, Enterprise Agencies, Childcare Partnership, Health Board/CHP
- Those on the group should as far as possible be funding officers

Way Forward

The Corporate Funding Officer will progress the development of the Argyll & Bute Local Partnership Hub with the input of Eileen Wilson, the CPP Manager. A progress report will be submitted to the December 2006 CPP Management Committee meeting.

*Arlene Cullum
Corporate Funding Officer
Policy & Strategy
Argyll & Bute Council
September 2006*

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The Argyll and Bute Community Plan

The first Community Plan was launched in April 2001. The second Community Plan is due to be published in June 2007 and will set out the strategic priorities and key actions to be tackled by the Partnership over the next five years (2007-11).

This paper proposes that the new Community Plan be based around the leading Rural Area vision for Argyll and Bute and be developed through a process of collaboration where partners and communities have the opportunity to comment on the proposed key topics to be addressed by the partnership over the next five year period.

Working in partnership

Many organisations, groups and individuals were involved in putting together the first Argyll and Bute Community Plan, providing the framework for closer partnership working and better service delivery.

This is a long term process and the biennial conferences have allowed us to evaluate the Plan and gather more information from partners to enable the development of the new updated Community Plan.

The Community Plan is an essential part of the process of delivering better services through better partnership, collaboration and engagement with communities.

The Plan 2007-2011

The New Community Plan will be built around the Argyll and Bute: Leading Rural Area vision.

Argyll and Bute: Leading Rural Area

Outstanding Environment

high quality environment that is valued, recognised and protected
the environment is respected as a valued asset that can provide sustainable opportunities for business
an identity that is recognised and appreciated globally with a range of businesses that use the high quality image
an area that is accessible, yet retains its remote character

Vibrant Communities

safe supportive communities with positive culture and sense of pride in the area
well balanced demographically with young people choosing to stay or move to the area
vibrant local economy that is based on core attributes of the area, flexible and open to new opportunities
a sense of history with a view to the future
housing that is appropriate and affordable with local people able to participate in the housing market
high quality public services and leisure/community facilities that attract people to settle in Argyll and Bute

Forward Looking

communities that are culturally rich with a desire to excel
proactive communities where local people and organisations look for and create opportunities
decentralised public sector with more delivery of high quality 'professional' services from Argyll and Bute
partnership working across all sectors to coordinate developments, market Argyll and Bute and remove constraints that limit possibilities
communities that learn and use that knowledge

In Argyll and Bute the vision for the Leading Rural Area would be that:

- All sections of the community are actively involved in decision-making
- That through strong partnerships good quality public services can be provided
- That our communities are safe and our citizens are healthy and looked after
- That jobs and opportunities are available to all
- That all development is sustainable

Key Topics

Based on the leading Rural Area Vision the Community Planning Partnership will identify a number of key topics to be addressed over the next 5 years.

These topics might include:

- Property – multi use of buildings
- Managing change of use of land
- Public Sector Reform
- Demographic change
- Advocacy for rural areas – making the case for rural areas not to loose out

The new topics should be more overarching, addressing issues that affect the whole of Argyll and Bute and benefiting from having been designed to reflect the supporting structures that exist within the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership. This will allow the Plan to be closely monitored and therefore ensure we are moving in the right direction to achieve our vision.

Building the Plan will happen between now and June 2007 when a draft plan will be presented at the 2007 Biennial Conference. The process will foster new working relationships, build on strengths of existing ones, create new opportunities for joint initiatives and identify new opportunities.

The first phase of this process is to discuss and agree key topics. This will be followed up by a more detailed process enabling all partners to further refine the focus of the chosen key topics.

The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership is committed to continuously improving engagement and communication.

Eileen Wilson
Community Planning Manager

Community Planning Management Committee

4 October 2006

Transforming public services: The next phase of reform

Progress to date

The Scottish Executive has, for sometime, had a series of projects running in parallel that have been focused on public sector reform, including:

- the Integrated Services Delivery and Governance Modelling Project
- Shared Services
- Efficient Government
- HUBs for asset procurement (initially focused on the NHS, but now extending it's scope) – arising from the Joint Premises Project Board

There have also been a range of projects within different strands of the public sector, e.g. SEERAD, NHS and the enterprise companies, that complicates the picture further.

This disjointed approach has been frustrating as there has been an element of 'not knowing which horse to back', which has been further fuelled by media speculation and announcements of different projects where different parts of the public sector have decided to 'go it alone' in various combinations. For example:

- the single public agency model being explored in areas where boundaries are coterminous and there is pressure for organisations to come together to create a 'critical mass' – for example Shetland and Orkney
- organisations working together within a sector – for example the Ayrshire Councils exploration of services they could share and jointly govern, the similar discussion on a smaller scale between Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils, national initiatives within the NHS and the centralisation/sharing of functions across the enterprise companies
- large scale 'pathfinders' such as that in the Clyde Valley where powerful partners such as Glasgow City and Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board bring in other local authorities to create a body that is 'Strathclyde minus the rural areas'

In all these different approaches, Argyll and Bute is at a disadvantage – the complicated issue of boundaries makes negotiations based on coterminosity difficult and none of the organisations in Argyll and Bute has significant political clout (or the high level decision-making is based outside the area in Glasgow, Edinburgh or Inverness).

This is complicated by political divisions within the Executive where there is not a will to work across the public sector – so initiatives tend to stay within the bounds of agencies controlled by different Executive departments.

The approach adopted so far in Argyll and Bute has been to try and develop an approach that more closely matches the single public agency model. The rationale for this approach is that:

- the geography of Argyll and Bute presents a common challenge to service providers that is like no other area of Scotland
- there are local practical examples of work across organisations, good relationships and a willingness to explore practical solutions (which doesn't necessarily make it easy given the other factors that are involved)
- an extension of organisational boundaries by mergers with other bodies will further distance local communities from the organisations that deliver their services and is therefore likely to reduce the effective influence they have on those organisations
- the location of senior management positions and organisational headquarters in Argyll and Bute will have a beneficial effect on the economy by attracting higher earners to the area and improve the image of the area as somewhere where an individual can develop their career

Tom McCabe, Minister for Finance and Public Sector Reform, published "*Transforming public services: The next phase of reform*" earlier this year as a consultation on the future of public services. The expectation of definite proposals was unfulfilled and the document is focused on principles for reform and an invitation for public sector bodies to respond with innovative ideas. The lack of definitive proposals is possibly a reflection on the difficulties inherent in organisational reform and the need for consensus to progress any changes.

The text below describes the overarching vision for the reforms expected by the Scottish Executive.

Vision for, and values of, reform

Our guiding vision for transformation is to have public services which we know to be amongst the most successful, effective and innovative in the world.

The values underpinning our commitment to public services are that they must:

- *promote social justice and equality;*
- *build for the future – fostering sustainable change, which supports a growing economy, a better environment and strong communities.*

The point of reform and change is that it will display itself in many forms – and will be implemented in many ways. But there are five fundamental elements which will underpin and support the modernisation of the public sector.

Transformed public services will:

- *be **user focused and personalised**, organised around users' and citizens' needs and aspirations, not the convenience of the service provider;*
- *drive up **quality and encourage innovation**;*
- *continue to **improve efficiency and productivity**;*
- *be **joined up** and minimise separation;*
- *ensure **strong accountability**.*

There is an expectation that change will happen and, in the absence of direction from the Executive, that the change will be driven locally.

How will Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership respond?

If the Community Planning Partnership is to fulfil the objective of having a strategic role to develop a vision for the area and change service delivery to improve services, there is a need for the Partnership to be clear about the local approach to public sector reform.

The message from the Executive is that no area is off limits. Whilst the dialogue has been about public sector reform, this debate could also include voluntary sector organisations – especially as most receive significant public sector funding.

Key questions for the partnership are:

- Does the rationale for the approach in Argyll and Bute make sense?
- How can the partnership develop a proactive approach to this debate?
- How do we put our message/concerns across as effectively as possible?
- What is the appetite for change locally?
- What flexibility do local bodies have when they are governed from outside Argyll and Bute?
- Do we respond to the consultation directly, or do we develop local proposals and 'go it alone' as others have done?
- If our approach is 'right', what do we need from the Executive to help make it happen?

Brian Barker
Policy and Strategy Manager
Argyll and Bute Council

18 September 2006

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Capacity Building Funding – Project Evaluations

The allocation of Community Capacity Building funding supported 6 projects developing skills and experience of individuals, promoting joint working and networking.

Completed Projects

Meet the Funders

I am pleased to submit this report on progress of the **Meet the Funders** event which was part funded by the Community Planning Partnership Capacity Building Fund. The report highlights the achievements of Meet the Funders and further developments. A two part evaluation of **Meet the Funders** is attached.

BACKGROUND

Meet the Funders aimed to

raise awareness of potential sources of funding, including income-generation and grant funding, and

provide targeted support to increase the capacity of the voluntary and community sector to become sustainable

It was led by a partnership of agencies, (*Argyll & Bute Council, Federation of Council for Voluntary Service, Argyll & the Islands Enterprise, Argyll Volunteer Centre, Argyll Citizens Advice Bureau, and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations Highlands & Islands Capacity Building Project*) and toured six destinations within Argyll & Bute from Monday 27 Feb to Saturday 4 March 2006.

COMMENTARY

The main outcomes of **Meet the Funders** were;

- over 760 people attended
- over 70% of respondents identified new funding opportunities
- levels of satisfaction with the event were very high
- expected benefits were all realised esp. in three main areas, *networking, capacity building and awareness raising*.
- closer working relationships between agencies
- Shared resource development - funding toolkit for use with third sector and other project development clients

THE FUTURE

The **Meet the Funders** partnership agreed that the event should take place next year and that it should progress to include a wide range of capacity building workshops on topics such as monitoring and evaluation, filling out application forms and details of any new funding streams. Finance for this follow up event will need to be secured in order for this to progress.

A further evaluation of **Meet the Funders** will take place later in the year to monitor the longer term impact of the project and these results will be factored into next years event.

As a result of **Meet the Funders**, Argyll & Bute Council has set up a development group that aims to maximise project development skills and tools across Argyll & Bute Council and to use this to help build the capacity of groups to strengthen and develop projects. This group is running a capacity building event in Campbeltown in

early October 2006 to launch the Campbeltown Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and associated opportunities arising from this input of funding to the town.

CONCLUSION

Meet the Funders was a success and if funding can be secured, will take place again next year offering new opportunities for capacity building. The unexpected benefits of the event have been closer working relationships and shared resources between the agencies involved and it is hoped that this too can be fostered.

Many thanks to the Community Planning Partnership for their kind contribution to **Meet the Funders**.

Arlene Cullum, Chair of Meet the Funders Working Group

Corporate Funding Officer, Policy & Strategy, Chief Executive's Unit, Argyll & Bute Council

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Argyll & Bute Youth Participation Conference - Tarbert June 1st & 2nd 2006

Lead Organisation - Argyll & Bute Youth Forum

An opportunity for Young People to Come Together, Have Fun and Work for Change

The proposal was to host, in Mid Argyll, a 2 day Youth Participation Conference, incorporating the 2006 A&BYF AGM. As well as bringing young people together from across the Authority this conference would facilitate meaningful consultation with Young People and promote youth participation in Local and A&B Youth Forums, Community Planning Processes and in the Scottish Youth Parliament.

This conference was an exciting opportunity for young people from across the local authority to come together and work towards healthier, happier, economically and environmentally sound communities for both young and old.

The Youth Participation Conference took place in June 2006 in Tarbert, at the Stonefield Castle Hotel, M.A.C.K. & M.A.G.S. and Templar's Arts and Leisure Centre. Its aim was to give young people a voice in their communities through engaging in the Community Planning Process and participating in Youth Forum and SYP activities.

Key themes covered at the conference:

- How Community Planning Partnerships can build closer links with young people and engage them more in the political process.
- Exploring alternative opportunities to interest and engage young people in local democracy and politics
- Working with the media to ensure that young people are represented in a positive light.
- Ideas and best practice of activity already taking place - e.g. Youth Forum, Young Scot, SYP.

There was also the opportunity to participate in fun outdoor activities and teambuilding games designed to enable better communication and tolerance.

Evaluation

Of the 45 evaluations returned 42 found the activities to be good or very good, the other three rated the activities as average. Everyone responding agreed that Stonefield Castle was a great venue though there were many complaints about the food. Especially the chips and the strange flavoured ice cream. MACK and MAGS and Templar's Arts and Leisure Centre, as workshop venues, were both found to be good or very good.

39 respondents rated the Community Planning workshop as very good, 3 as good and 4 as average. The majority of those who attended the DTP Workshop found it to be informative and rated it at very good or good. The Press & Media workshop was also rated highly getting mostly very goods and goods with only 3 rating it as average.

Although the food at Stonefield was not well received the food at MACK & MAGS went down well, especially the BBQ and the cakes.

SOME OF THE BEST BITS.....“Watching people fall in the water during the kayaking”...“The hotel rooms”...“The activities and meeting new people”...“Disco”...“Meeting everybody”

SOME OF THE WORST BITS.....“The strange flavoured ice cream”...“Having to go home”...“Locking Carol’s keys in her car”...Being eaten alive by the midges”

IDEAS FOR HELENSBURGH 2007.....“Longer”...“Horse riding”...“Invite even more people”...“Tell the midges to go away”

Fundraising Skills in the Community — End of Project Report

Step Up Project – Isle of Bute

Funding was given to increase the capacity of individual members of community groups in being able to identify sources of funding, prepare and develop funding proposals and submit applications for funding. The programme would also support our existing Capacity Building programme of assistance to develop publicity / promotional materials.

Community Groups that took part in the project include:

Achievement Bute – project worker attended committee meeting to promote the capacity building programme. 2 participants attended workshops, drafted applications and attended Dunoon Roadshow.

Bute Allotments Association – 2 people attended drop-ins – 2 applications drafted and 1 submitted.

Bute Credit Union – attended drop-in workshops, discussed proposed applications – joint application submitted with other organisations.

Bute Creche – meeting with 7 committee members – 1 person involved in funding applications. Attended drop-in workshop.

Bosom Buddies – meeting with 2 organisers – unable to move forward due to other commitments.

MUGS (Maternity Users Groups) – meeting with 6 committee members, follow up meeting with 3 people involved in fundraising

Link Club – 3 individuals involved in fundraising proposals. Attended drop-in and Roadshow.

Beachwatch Bute – attended fundraising roadshow and developed new promotional materials.

Bute Outdoors Centre – researched potential funding sources, attended Roadshow and met with Lottery

Fund rep.

Bute Players – drafted fundraising application, but did not proceed with submission

The Saturday Art Club – proceeded with an application and won an award.

Fundraising Workshops

Workshops were held in several community settings, to widen awareness within the community. A series of fundraising drop-in sessions were held at Bute Community Links, at the Community Education Centre and at the Green Tree Café (which is run by Bute Healthy Living Initiative). The workshops were promoted through leaflets and posters distributed around the community and to organisations, as well as in the local newspaper.

As part of the project, we promoted the Argyll & Bute Council Funding Roadshow event that took place in Dunoon, co-ordinating attendance, organising transport and helping set up appointments with funding bodies. This enabled a number of community groups and individuals from Bute to attend the roadshow.

Pre-roadshow workshops enabled groups to develop draft funding proposals that they took to the funding roadshow to discuss with potential funders.

A regular weekly 2-hour drop-in session was also held at the Step Up office throughout the project, when a worker was available to support groups who wanted to research funding sources on computer and draft applications.

Outcome

Bute Allotments Association prepared an application within the Capacity Building programme and have achieved a grant of £3000 towards re-instating the community allotments and have also achieved in-kind support from local businesses.

Bute Link Club is pushing ahead with proposals for new premises, and developing an application for activities funding.

MUGS have been successful in raising funds and in-kind support to create their sensory garden at the Victoria Hospital

The project supported Bute Outdoors Centre to explore potential funding sources and meet with Lottery Fund representative at the Roadshow.

The Saturday Art Club achieved funding to support art tutor input to their annual programme.

Conclusion

The project was very well received by participants who were able to access fundraising support in a helpful, relaxed environment. Workshops were designed around the needs of participating organisations / individuals and positive feedback was provided by participants who were able to discuss, develop and refine their fundraising proposals. Participants were able to access funding research tools and increase awareness of potential funding sources. Individual participants reported increased confidence in their own abilities and the contribution they could make, and also felt they gained better understanding of the value of the work their organisation delivers. Overall, the project raised awareness of the support available to community groups, and broadened awareness of the wider funding opportunities that can be accessed.

Due to the popularity of this programme we have chosen to carry on offering the service despite the fact the funding has finished. We are actively seeking new funding sources to continue what we have found to be a very valuable service. We would welcome the opportunity to submit proposals for any further Capacity Building programme.

August 2006

Working Together – Toolkit for Kintyre

South Kintyre Community learning Partnership – No Report

Support for Carers

Dochas Fund – project not started

Young Active Citizens Essential Skills

Argyll & Bute Volunteer Centre – project incorporated into larger project (See item 8b)

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Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership Annual Report

Health and Well Being Theme Group (HWTG) Update

Introduction

The Joint Health Improvement Plan for 2006-09 contains a strategic section and seven local action plans developed by the local public health networks. Each plan links into the strategic actions, and builds local pieces of work around the six health and well being priorities, which are:

- 1.Improving Partnership Working on Health and Well Being
- 2.The Negative Impact of Alcohol Misuse
- 3.Reducing the Incidence of Coronary Heart Disease (CHD), Stroke and Cancer
- 4.Improving Mental Health and Well Being
- 5.Helping Communities to Feel Safer
- 6.Reducing Health Inequalities through the Development of Social Care and Health Care Services

From 2005 the theme group has taken responsibility for allocating that part of the Health Improvement Fund devolved from the NHS to the Community Planning Partnership. There are detailed criteria for application of funding from the HIF, including the need for projects to be involved with the public health networks, part of JHIP plans (strategic or local), information about expected health outcomes, sustainability of projects and also monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The group has allocated approximately £70,000 of HIF funding this year towards implementing partnership health improvement work. Some further monies have still to be disbursed. Most of that money has now been allocated to projects that are ongoing in the localities. All are approved by the local public health network lead prior to submission to the HWTG. Allocations this year have taken into account the population size of the locality. However this has not been strictly adhered to as last year not all areas put forward ideas for funding. The intention is that during this year we reach a reasonably equitable split over the two years. This has meant some requests have been turned down. A summary of projects funded by locality and JHIP priority can be found in Appendix 1. Please note that the amounts in the table are indicative and not actual as some projects intend to work to more than one objective but the budget is not split in the same manner.

Partnership working

The Group regards this as a crucial priority. Long term sustainability of action on the current and future health objectives is considered to be affected by the degree of the success of this priority. The local Public Health Networks are at varying degrees of development with some clearly cohesive and generating a great deal of health activity while others require support to establish a shared vision across all the partners. This does not mean that such areas have necessarily a low number of activities. However for there to be a sufficient

'dose' on any particular topic there does have to be a pulling together to concentrate agreed activities.

It is also recognised that we need to capture the health improvement activities that community planning partners have been working on in the past months. Our intention is to audit such activities with a view to sharing the information and good practice and importantly to increase the opportunities for joined up working. We aim to complete this work by April 2007.

Alcohol

The HWTG assisted in the process of producing an updated Alcohol and Drug Action Plan for Argyll and Bute, with a strong emphasis on prevention and education, and in the format of the JHIP i.e. strategic actions linked to local action plans. This should help focus work towards the prevention agenda, and has helped partnership working across the area by staff involved in service delivery and public health. Improved links have been developed between ADAT and HWTG.

CHD, stroke and cancer

A good range of local activity is directed to this priority. However we need to make the links with existing strategies and ensure improved co-ordination through local public health networks to make best use of the resources available to us.

Mental health and wellbeing

Choose Life is the national initiative aimed at reducing suicide and self harm. Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership has benefited from funding for Choose Life from the Scottish Executive since 2004, with a further funding commitment made during this year until 2008. Choose Life submitted a comprehensive summary of their extensive work in June 2006 to the CPP Management Group. Their work continues in line with their plans. An additional project worker has been appointed to extend the existing training and capacity building programme. In terms of sustainability work is ongoing to ensure that this training becomes embedded within organisations.

Within this priority the HWTG is also committed to reducing social isolation. Some but not all the local plans have directed their attention to this. Within the strategic plan we are keen to develop this priority and as an immediate task we are engaging with those taking forward the Transport Strategy in the Council and the CHP.

Communities feel safer

Key activities under this priority are DRIVESafe, community safety and domestic abuse. DRIVESafe continues to raise awareness of safe driving practice. Using crash data it has identified the main causes of crashes in Argyll and Bute, has adopted the 'RU2close' logo for this year's logo.

Inequalities

Local plans reflect the range of initiatives being implemented through the development of social care and health care services to reduce health

inequalities. At a strategic level the HWTG has recognised that it needs to improve its use of data sources to identify areas of greatest need. This will be done through the relevant statutory agencies but will generate a good level of health intelligence within the Group itself that can be used to its best advantage.

Conclusion

The Group itself has developed its way of working over the past year. Likewise the local public health networks have continued to develop. Through such developments it is considered that partnership working has improved whilst recognising that we need to support some areas to help realise this. Good progress has been made in the other five priority areas with plenty evidence of local activity in public health networks and initiatives of all kinds coming forward with ideas to improve Argyll and Bute's health.

Appendix 1

Table 1: indicative allocation of health improvement fund

	Helens burgh	Dunoon & Cowal	Bute	Mid Argyll	Kintyre	Islay & Jura	North Argyll
Partnership working			£1,800	£5,527	£3,750		£5,000 £13,445
Alcohol							
CVD & cancer	£5,000	£511	£1,500 £600 £1,000				£2,500
Mental health	£7,284	£3,650					£2,500
Safer communities	£5,000	£511				£1,220	£2,500
Inequalities							£2,500 £600

**Argyll and the Island Local Economic Forum (LEF) Meeting Report to Argyll and Bute
Community Planning Partnership on 20th September 2006**

This was the first of the combined LEF and Argyll & the Islands Enterprise Board meetings. There will be five each year.

Ken Abernethy reported on the Economic Activity in the area and then discussed recent measurements, issues included:

Aquaculture - Animal rights activists released young halibut by cutting nets. As margins are so low the industry cannot bear the additional costs of effective security. There is a merger proposed between Panfish and Marine Harvest which could impact on some local sides.

Oban - should be a centre for economic growth and efforts to ameliorate the infrastructure constraints of Scottish Water and traffic are being addressed. The new SW Chair and their realigned budget should begin to have effect.

SAMS - AIE is working with the organisation to help it realise its full potential and to maximise the benefit to the Highland and Scottish economy.

Marine National Park - Still under consideration, however there are concerns surrounding the planning and financial issues that accompany the designation. The consultation will be run by the Scottish Executive. Safeguards for the (shellfish) fishing industry will be required if fishing is included.

Irish Ferry - Two companies may be invited to tender for the ferry in the near future. It might now be possible to access the 'Interreg' EU fund for marketing to link with the west coast of Scotland.

Mull Pool - a venture between the council and a hotel to build a new pool on Mull was established some years ago. Many obstacles have been overcome and the project will now be going ahead, and will start soon as there is European money in the project with expenditure deadlines.

Vestas - Nacelle production at Campbeltown, an assembly of imported parts, will probably cease in a few months. Tower manufacture, with a now mandatory higher local content, will continue providing there is a steady flow of UK orders for wind turbines. Transport is critical to the continued viability of the Campbeltown factory, particularly the three 'pinch' points on the A83 which hinder the shipment of towers (canal bridge at Ardrishaig, road bridge at Inveraray and rail bridge between Arrochar & Tarbet). Although Vestas have unique transport requirements, we are not aware of other economic opportunities that are missed because the Argyll road infrastructure is below average.

Argyll Air Services - Linking Oban Coll Colonsay and Glasgow is meeting the construction timetable and the opportunities then available for both the economy and health will be tremendous.

Argyll Schools NPDO - Are mostly now well ahead with schools being built and pupils moved in.

Careers Scotland Lochgilphead - have joined staff at AIE in Kilmory as part of the integration being effected throughout the Highlands & Islands Enterprise. This location will be convenient for the new school in Lochgilphead.

Machrihanish Air Base may be sold to a private developer which should enable more commercial development on the site, including a new golf course which is still awaiting final tranches of funding.

The Kintyre Way - A long distance walk between Tarbert and Southend, was opened on 12th August 2006. This is a partnership project using funds from AIE and work from FC & A&B Council.

Sailing - Initiatives in North Ayrshire have resulted in moorings in Brodick and there may be pontoons in Lochranza.

Garrison House - On Cumbrae incorporating offices, doctor and library is nearing completion.

ESIN Island Exchange Conference - Will be held on Islay in November. This is the final phase of the project and the conference will focus on the project report as part of the workshops.

Measurement - Reports on the economic development activities in the LEF area, a focused piece of work commissioned by the group was reviewed. **Business Starts** are seasonal and have declined as unemployment is still quite low in many areas of Argyll, despite recent increases. The highest HIE region for unemployment is Dunoon and Rothesay where the rate is only 3.8%. The poor quality of available staff is such that it is hindering economic development in both existing and potential businesses. **Population** of Argyll & Bute has declined, based on mid-year figures, which includes a loss of 200 Armed Forces staff which probably indicates a stable population overall. HIE's ambitions for the whole of the highlands and islands is to grow the population to 500,000 by 2020. Argyll's share of this growth is 20,000 which in turn means 10,000 new homes will need to be constructed. While all exchanges are **Broadband** enabled, the focus now needs to be moved to increasing business take-up of the capability.

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