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Argyll and Bute Council Comhairle Earra Ghaidheal agus Bhoid

Customer Services Executive Director: Douglas Hendry



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18 May 2011

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the ECONOMY THEMATIC CPP GROUP will be held in the MEMBERS ROOM, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD on WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2011 at 1:00 PM, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry Executive Director - Customer Services

BUSINESS

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)
- **3. MINUTES** Economy Thematic CPP Group 23 February 2011 (Pages 1 - 8)
- 4. AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY IN ARGYLL AND BUTE/SRDP Presentation by Bill Dundas, Argyll and Western Isles Area, Rural Payments and Inspections, Scottish Government
- 5. YOUTH DESTINATIONS/MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS Presentation by Anthony Standing/Frances Webster, Skills Development Scotland
- 6. LOCAL EMPLOYABILITY PARTNERSHIP GROUP GET READY FOR WORK AND TRAINING FOR WORK CONTRACT Report by Anthony Standing/Frances Webster, Skills Development Scotland (to follow)
- 7. ECONOMY THEMATIC CPP GROUP SCORECARD
- 8. PARTNER UPDATES ON CPP PLAN
- 9. HIGHLIGHT AND EXCEPTION REPORTS

- (a) Argyll and Bute Strategic Housing and Communities Forum (Pages 9 12)
- (b) Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group (Pages 13 16)
- 10. INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED ON CPP WEB PAGES Discussion

11. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME(Pages 17 - 18)

ECONOMY THEMATIC CPP GROUP

John Binning, SPTIshabel Bremner, ABCDavid Cannon, Cal MacAllan Comrie, SPTDouglas Cowan, HIE (Thematic Lead) Linda Haig, ACHABill Stewart, SENCouncillor Alister MacAlister, ABCJane MacLeod, Mid Argyll Chamber of CommerceCouncillor Donald MacMillan, ABCCouncillor Alex McNaughton, ABCRobert Pollock, ABCCouncillor Elaine Robertson, ABCCouncillor Ron Simon, ABC (Chair)Anthony Standing, SDS

Shirley MacLeod, ABC Eileen Wilson, CPP

Bill Dundas, Scottish Government

Contact: Fiona McCallum Tel: 01546 604406

Agenda Item 3

MINUTES of MEETING of ECONOMY THEMATIC CPP GROUP held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD on WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2011

Present:	Councillor Ron Simon (Chair)				
	Councillor Alister MacAlister, Argyll and Bute Council Councillor Donald MacMillan, Argyll and Bute Council Councillor Elaine Robertson, Argyll and Bute Council Robert Pollock, Argyll and Bute Council Sue Gledhill, HIE Anthony Standing, Skills Development Scotland Frances Webster, Skills Development Scotland Jane MacLeod, Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce				
Attending:	Shirley MacLeod, Argyll and Bute Council Jane Fowler, Argyll and Bute Council Ishabel Bremner, Argyll and Bute Council David Clements, Argyll and Bute Council Lisa Bond, Argyll and Bute Council Eileen Wilson, Community Planning Manager Ian Davison Porter, Business Improvement Districts Scotland				

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated from Councillor Alex McNaughton, David Cannon, Caledonian MacBrayne and Douglas Cowan, HIE.

Shirley MacLeod advised that Bill Dundas from the Scottish Government was unable to attend the meeting today to give his presentation on the Agriculture Industry in Argyll and Bute and it was agreed to invite him to give this presentation to the Group at the next meeting in May 2011.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Economy Thematic CPP Group meeting held on 23 November 2010 were approved as a correct record.

4. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

Ian Davison Porter, Director of Business Improvement Districts Scotland gave a very informative presentation on this initiative which was established in 2009 to support and encourage the development and operation of Business Improvement Districts across Scotland. BIDS leads the Scottish Government's BID programme and is the national organisation for BIDS in Scotland. Ian explained the process and basic principles of developing a BID and referred to a number of established BIDS across Scotland and developing BIDS including Oban - tourism

town centre; Dunoon town centre/peninsula; and Mull – food producers.

lan also responded to a number of questions in response to his presentation.

Decision

- 1. Noted the contents of the presentation and thanked lan for his contribution to the meeting; and
- 2. Agreed that there was a need for the Council to develop a strategy for dealing with BIDS in the Argyll and Bute area.

5. ECONOMY THEMATIC CPP GROUP SCORECARD

A report summarising the recommendations of the working group set up to look at the current Economy Thematic CPP Group Scorecard was considered.

Decision

- 1. Agreed that the current Scorecard be amended to include the new measures set out in report at paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2;
- 2. Noted that Ishabel Bremner would liaise with Partners in respect of further appropriate measures being included in the Scorecard to reflect the economic health of the area; and
- 3. Noted that the revised Scorecard would be brought to the next meeting in May 2011.

(Reference: Report by Thematic Lead, submitted)

6. PARTNER UPDATES ON CPP PLAN

Partners provided information on work currently being undertaken in respect of the Economy Community Plan Actions.

Skills Development Scotland

School Leaver Destination Report

Anthony Standing referred to the contents of this report which was based on pupils who left school in December 2009 and August 2010. He advised that a follow up survey was currently being compiled and that a copy of the report was available to view on the SDS website.

<u>PACE</u> - the Scottish Government's national strategic partnership framework for responding to redundancy situations. Skills Development Scotland leads PACE at a national level, facilitating local response teams to provide tailored help and support for individuals at risk of, or experiencing, redundancy.

Frances Webster advised that SDS were currently working very closely with Argyll and Bute Council to support people whose lives will change as a result of cuts to the Council's budget and referred to workshops which will be delivered to staff facing redundancy. Frances also advised that they were working with staff of Machrie Hotel on Islay and they were working closely with Job Centre Plus to map where small business are and that a PACE report was being worked on which will show which sectors are most affected by the current economic climate. It was noted that they were also working with Skycon to pull together a workforce profile to see what the workforce had to offer in terms of skills.

Scottish Tourism Week

Anthony advised that SDS, Job Centre Plus and Springboard were working together for Scottish Tourism Week and were hosting an event in the Soroba House Hotel, Oban on 1 March 2011.

<u>LANTRA</u>

Anthony referred to LANTRA which was hosting events for organisations on how land based centres work.

Service Delivery Agreement

Anthony advised that he was working with Ishabel Bremner on this and that a workshop was being held in March 2011.

Argyll and Bute Council

Business Gateway

Ishabel reported that ongoing year to date (YTD) delivery with regard to start-up and existing businesses supported was as follows:

start-up businesses supported – actual of 134 YTD against an annual target of 150:

with 60 starts supported YTD in Helensburgh and Lomond the annual target of 56 has already been exceeded;

for the remaining areas within Argyll and Bute, 74 starts have been supported YTD against an annual target of 94; and

 existing businesses supported - actual of 269 YTD against an annual target of 225. A significant increase was seen in November and December 2010, due primarily to existing businesses attending the popular e-commerce and website building workshops held in Inveraray, Dunoon and Oban.

Business Gateway workshop delivery during the third quarter of 2010/11 was as follows:

- one Awareness Raising Seminar in Oban;
- 10 Business Start-up modules in Oban, Dunoon and Campbeltown;
- four Practical Book-keeping workshops in Dunoon, Oban, Campbeltown and Inveraray;
- four HMRC Reduce Your Tax Bill workshops in Dunoon, Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown;
- three HMRC Self Assessment workshops in Campbeltown, Oban and Inveraray;
- three Making the Most of Online Trading workshops in Oban, Dunoon and Inveraray;
- four Build Your Own Business Website workshops in Inveraray, Dunoon and Oban and;
- lastly an Advanced Web Building workshop was in held in Inveraray for those attendees who attended the Build Your Own Business Website workshop that had gone on to develop their site and needed further guidance.

Ishabel advised that overall customer satisfaction is very high. Analysed feedback to November 2010, recorded that 81% of workshop attendees thought the workshops delivered were "excellent" and 18% rated the workshops as "good".

The pilot Competitive Business Growth Programme (CBGP) was soft launched in August and promoted via series of roadshows in September and advertising in December 2010. As a new scheme, it has taken time for awareness to grow. In December 2010 the LEADER Local Action Group approved the request for the pilot's application deadline to be extended until 30 September 2011, giving more time to promote the pilot and achieve its projected outcomes and evidence based learning. (Fit for Growth is the comparable programme delivered in the Helensburgh and Lomond area).

The CBGP Business Networking event took place in Oban on the 2nd February 2011 (postponed on 8th December 2010 due to the bad weather) with guest speaker, Fraser Doherty, Superjam. Business Gateway received some very positive feedback from businesses that attended the event such as "I thought the networking event was both informative and inspirational and it was a great opportunity to talk to business people from many different sectors - all of whom share a common goal - to be successful and prosperous in Argyll and contribute to the local economy." Linda Battison, Oban & Lorn Tourism Association.

Business Gateway are also working in conjunction with the Council's Procurement Team to hold supplier development events across the Council area during May 2011. These events will follow on from supplier workshops being held in March 2011 by the Procurement Team involving small groups of suppliers and contractors who are experienced in bidding for work and are able to work with the Procurement Team to identify barriers that exist within the procurement process for local companies.

Renewables

Ishabel advised that the Renewable Energy Action Plan Executive Summary had been produced and disseminated and had been well received. She also advised that the first meeting of the Argyll and Bute Renewables Alliance (ABRA) would be held in March 2011.

Access Road and Housing at Dunbeg

Ishabel advised on progress with this.

<u>HIE</u>

<u>Skycon</u>

Sue Gledhill reported that production continued in order to fulfil current contracts.

Argyll Marine Science Park

Sue advised that the procurement process was underway to appoint new contractors and it was expected that contractors would be on site in late summer 2011.

Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce

Heart of Tourism Alliance

Jane MacLeod advised that Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce were working with the newly formed Heart of Tourism Alliance, a tourism marketing group which was set up from spare cash from the Dalriada Project and that a promotional event would take place on 11 March 2011 hosted by the Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce.

Business Breakfasts

Jane also referred to successful business breakfasts they had hosted including one with Mike Russell, MSP and another with Alan Reid, MP, Michael Moore MP and Councillor Alison Hay in which a number of topics were discussed including: burden of employment legislation; increased VAT rate, pensions, renewables, state of the roads and the banking sector.

Decision

- 1. Noted the updates provided by Partners; and
- 2. Agreed that Skills Development Scotland would give a presentation to the Group in May 2011 covering youth destinations including physical destinations and modern apprenticeships.

7. HIGHLIGHT AND EXCEPTION REPORTS

(a) STRATEGIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES FORUM

Consideration was given to a Highlight and Exception report prepared by the Strategic Housing and Communities Forum.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by Strategic Housing and Communities Forum dated 10 January 2011, submitted)

(b) ARGYLL AND ISLES LEADER LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Consideration was given to a Highlight and Exception report prepared by the Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group.

Decision

- 1. Noted the contents of the report; and
- 2. Noted that the number of projects the Argyll and the Islands LEADER Programme has funded is 157 and not 162 as detailed in the report.

(Reference: Report by Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group dated 12 January 2011, submitted)

(c) STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP LIST FOR HIGHLIGHT AND EXCEPTION REPORTING

Consideration was given to the revised Strategic Partnership List for Highlight and Exception Reporting submitted by Eileen Wilson, Community Planning Manager. The Group were asked to suggest any areas in which the list could be rationalised.

Decision

Noted the contents of the list and that this will be updated following recommendations made at the other Thematic CPP Groups.

(Reference: Strategic Partnership List for Highlight and Exception Reporting updated February 2011, submitted)

8. LOCAL EMPLOYABILITY PARTNERSHIP GROUP

Consideration was given to a request from the Local Employability Partnership Group to nominate a representative from the Community Planning Partnership to work with Skills Development Scotland on the procurement and contracting process for Get Ready to Work and Training for Work in Argyll and Bute.

Decision

Noted that due to the short timescale involved Eileen Wilson had represented the Community Planning Partnership at a meeting to take this tendering process forward and that the outcome of this would be reported to the Group at the next meeting in May 2011.

(Reference: Email dated 24 January 2011 from George Maxwell, SDS, submitted)

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP AUDIT 2011

Consideration was given to a report advising that Audit Scotland has announced that there will be an audit of the Community Planning Partnership and that it will focus on the role of the Partnership in supporting sustainable economic growth.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report and noted that the Council will coordinate the response to Audit Scotland in consultation with Partners.

(Reference: Report by Community Planning Manager, submitted)

Councillor Donald MacMillan left the meeting.

10. UPDATE ON COUNCIL REDUNDANCIES

Jane Fowler advised that of 474 posts identified to be cut as part of the Council's Service Review and budget fewer than 20 of those posts would see staff at risk from compulsory redundancy and that those staff affected would not leave the Council until at least June and that it was hoped that before then there would be the potential for those staff to be redeployed elsewhere.

Jane advised that in respect of the other posts identified to be cut staff in those posts had either gone through a process of redeployment, applied for voluntary redundancy, or had variations made to their contract.

Jane advised that a separate consultation on the Education Non Estate Review was still ongoing which would affect classroom assistants, music tutors and non teaching employees.

Decision

Noted the update provided.

Anthony Standing left the meeting.

11. SUPPORT FOR REDUNDANT COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

A report informing the Group of the arrangements the Council is making to support employees whose employment may be terminated as a result of redundancy on a compulsory, or voluntary, basis was considered.

Decision

Noted the arrangements the Council is making to provide information and advice to employees whose employment may be terminated as a result of redundancy.

(Reference: Report by Head of Improvement and Strategic HR, submitted)

12. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the future work programme of the Economy Thematic CPP Group.

Decision

Agreed the current work programme and that the following items would be placed on the agenda of the next meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday 25 May 2011 –

Theme – Youth Employment

Report on outcome of evaluation of RET (if available) Partner Updates New Economy Thematic CPP Group Scorecard Presentation by SDS on Youth Destinations/Modern Apprenticeships Progress report on SDS Get Ready for Work and Training for work contract SDS Progress Report Presentation by Bill Dundas on Agriculture Industry in Argyll and Bute Strategic Timber Transport Funding

Agenda Item 9a

Strategic Partnership Highlight





Strategic Partnership (Name of Partnership you are reporting on)	ARGYLL & BUTE STRATEGIC HOUSING & COMMUNITIES FORUM			
CPP Thematic Group (i.e Economy, Environment or Social Affairs)	ECONOMY			
CPP Outcome (please select – you can select more than one outcome)	CPP/CP01 – competitive and successful businesses			
Please refer to attached table for more detail on each	X CPP/CP02 – sustainable economic assets			
CPP Outcome.	X CPP/CP03 – vibrant towns that are centres of economic growth			
	CPP/CP04 – promoting our cultural, social and natural heritage			
	CPP/CP05 – Utilising our environment to create employment and prosperity			
	CPP/CP06 – Protecting our unique area			
	X CPP/CP07 – services are planned and delivered based on local need			
	X CPP/CP08 – overall health, wellbeing, independence and social inclusion are improved			
	X CPP/CP09 – people feel safe and secure			
	CPP/CP010 – our diverse culture is celebrated			

Activity Summary in	November 2010 – April 2011
Period	The Forum oversees the development, implementation & monitoring of the Housing Needs & Demand Assessment (HNDA),
(please state period you are	Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP), & the Local Housing
reporting on)	Strategy (LHS) for Argyll & Bute.
	Members participated in a seminar on 25/11/10 to review the
	strategic vision, aims & objectives of the new LHS and also engaged
	in a series of Option Appraisal workshops in February & March 2011
	to inform the draft Action Plan for the new strategy.
	At the formal meeting on 25 th March 2011, the Council's new
	spokesperson for Rural Affairs & Islands, Housing & Gaelic,
	Councillor Robin Currie, assumed chairmanship of the Forum.
	The 2010 SHIP was approved and submitted to the Scottish
	Government in November 2010
	A finalised HNDA report was approved and submitted to the CHMA in December 2010.
	The outcome report on the Interim LHS Action Plan for 2010/11 was approved. Key achievements for last year in relation to CPP CP09
	targets were:
	 156 new build completions for social rent
	 26 new build completions for shared equity/LIFT
	 8 of above total were designed to meet particular needs
	 Repeat Homelessness reduced by one third from previous year's
	figure (i.e. from 28 to 19)
	• The revision of the Council's Strategic Housing Fund policy, with
	approval this year of grants and loans potentially totalling in
	excess of £9.5m to support 8 individual projects.
	 The formal signing of the HOME Argyll Development joint
	agreement between RSL partners in January 2011.
	• A successful bid to the Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHIS)
	securing funding of £520k , and completion of over 1,000 HIS
	projects on the islands (covering loft & cavity wall insulations).
	• An estimated public investment of over £26m in the local
	economy (including AHIP, PSHG, and SHF but excluding additional private leverage and other RSL investment from Wider Role and
	ongoing maintenance programmes)
	 Successful bid for co-production support funds and launch of
	local Cowal & Bute disability pilot in 2010.
Key Challenges &	Key challenge remains the loss of core development funding and
	fundamental restructuring of public investment in affordable
Actions to Address	housing (ie change from Affordable Housing Investment Programme
	to Investment & Innovation Fund with total national pot less than
	budget previously allocated to Argyll & Bute alone) which will impact
	significantly on supply while at the same time need & demand are
	exacerbated by economic trends and national policy shifts such as
	welfare & benefit reforms.

Name	Moira MacVicar
Date	17 th May 2011

Please complete and return to: Environment Melissa.stewart@argyll-bute.gov.uk Economy Fiona.mccallum@argyll-bute.gov.uk Social Affairs Fiona.mccallum@argyll-bute.gov.uk

If you require any more information please contact

Eileen Wilson Community Planning Manager Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership 25 West King Street Helensburgh, G84 8UW Tel: 01436 658726 Mob: 07769968098 Eileen.wilson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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Strategic Partnership Highlight Communityplanningpartnership

& Exception Report

Strategic	Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group
Partnership	07
(Name of	
Partnership you	
are reporting on)	Economy
_	Economy
Thematic	
Group (i.e Economy,	
Environment or	
Social Affairs)	
СРР	CPP/CP01 – competitive and successful businesses
Outcome	x
(please select – you can select	
more than one	x CPP/CP02 – sustainable economic assets
outcome)	x CPP/CP03 – vibrant towns that are centres of economic growth
	CPP/CP04 – promoting our cultural, social and natural heritage
	CPP/CP05 – Utilising our environment to create employment and
	prosperity
	x CPP/CP06 – Protecting our unique area
	$\mathbf{CPP/CP07}$ – services are planned and delivered based on local need
	CPP/CP08 – overall health, wellbeing, independence and social inclusion are improved
	CPP/CP09 – people feel safe and secure
	CPP/CP010 – our diverse culture is celebrated

Page 14			
Page 14 Reporting Period : 17 th December 2010 – 30 th April 2011			
Since it began allocating funds in May 2008, the Argyll and the Islands LEADER Programme (including the Convergence Programme) has played a significant role in aiding economic recovery. The LAG has awarded £5,343,284 of grant funding to 176 projects - a substantial cash injection for communities across Argyll and the Islands. By the end of the fourth quarter, 164 projects had formally acknowledged the approval of £4,712,244 of grant funding – these are the actual figures reported to the Scottish Government. Once acknowledgements have been received from project applicants, the remaining projects will be processed by the Secretariat during the first quarter of 2011/12.			
During the fourth quarter of 2010/11 at the March LEADER LAG (thirteenth round) a total of 14 projects were awarded funding totalling £469,300. A few examples to highlight are as follows:			
 a) Argyll & Bute Council, Rothesay Townscape Heritage Initiative, £107,839: Rothesay THI Training and Education Programme will complement a wider Heritage-led Regeneration Project which aims to ensure a sustainable long-term future for the island and to encourage economic growth through increased tourism. b) Tiree Rural Development Limited, Tiree Goose Management Training Project, £1,895: the aim of the project is to provide local crofters with the knowledge, training and skills to be able to control the numbers of geese on the island in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive way. c) Arrochar & Tarbet Community Council, Arrochar Play Area £ 37,455: a small community group taking positive action to improve the community facilities in their area. 			
 In addition, the LEADER Project Co-ordinators have been assisting in the development of three transnational projects, two of which, Argyll Bute Council Taste of Rural Europe and South Islay Development the Columba Challenge and Festival of the Sea were approved at the Strategic LAG on the 7 of April 2011. Full details all projects funded are available on our website www.argyllandtheislandsleader.org.uk THE NEXT FUNDING MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 16th of June 2011 (DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS 28th April 2011). Subsequent meetings will be held quarterly throughout the life of the programme. Initial enquiries can be made to Project Coordinators: Lorna Elliott 01631 563016 lorna.elliott@argyll-bute.gov.uk or Sheila McLean 01631 564424 			

	Page 15			
Key Challenges & Actions to Address	Challenge The current economic situation continues to have an impact on the funding available to groups developing projects Ensuring that there is a good level of awareness of the LEADER programme throughout Argyll and the Islands so that groups are aware of the types of project that can be funded by the programme and how to apply if relevant	Action to AddressContinue to signpost projects to the most appropriate funder to maximise resourcesEnsuring that information about LEADER is widely available so that groups are aware of the types of project that can be funded by the programme and how to apply if relevant		
Name	Lorna Elliott Argyll and the Islands LEADER Project Coordinator			
Date	17/5/11			

Please complete and return to:

Environment Melissa.stewart@argyll-bute.gov.uk Economy Fiona.mccallum@argyll-bute.gov.uk Social Affairs Fiona.mccallum@argyll-bute.gov.uk

If you require any more information please contact

Eileen Wilson

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ECONOMY THEMATIC CPP GROUP WORK PROGRAMME

	2011 23	2011 25	2011 31	2011 29
	February Repopulating Argyll and Bute	May Youth Employment	August	November
RET			X Report on outcome of evaluation of RET.	
Review of Economy Community Plan Actions/ Partner Updates	X Noted. Agreed to SDS giving presentation on Youth Destinations.	X	X	X
Performance Management	X Noted revisions being made to Scorecard.	X	X	X
Future Work Programme	X	Х	X	Х
Skills Development Scotland		X Progress report		
Business Improvement Districts	X Presentation Noted.			
Agriculture Funding/SRDP	X Presentation. Officer unable to attend agreed that this presentation be given at May meeting.	X Presentation		
Strategic Timber Transport Funding			X	
Public Sector Budget Cuts and the impact on the Argyll and Bute Economy	Noted.			
Highlight and Exception Reports	X Noted reports from Strategic Housing and Communities Forum and from Argyll and Isles LEADER Local Action Group	X	X	X

Agenda Item 11

ECONOMY THEMATIC CPP GROUP WORK PROGRAMME

	2011 23	2011 25	2011 31	2011 29
	February	May Vouth Employment	August	November
Local Employability	Repopulating Argyll and Bute	Youth Employment X		
Partnership Group/Get Ready for Work and Training for Work	Noted and agreed that progress report be brought to May meeting re SDS Get Ready for Work and Training for Work contract.	Progress report		
Community Planning	X			
Audit 2011	Noted.			
Support to Redundant	X			
Council Employees	Noted.			
Youth Destinations/Modern Apprenticeships		X Presentation by SDS		
Info to be included on CPP Web Pages		Х		
HITRANS Presentation			Х	