

Argyll and Bute Council
Comhairle Earra Ghaidheal agus Bhoid

Customer Services
Executive Director: Douglas Hendry



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21 February 2012

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **ECONOMY THEMATIC CPP GROUP** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD** on **WEDNESDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2012** at **11:00 AM**, 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 29 November 2011 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. **PARTNER UPDATES**
5. **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**
Economy Thematic CPP Group Scorecard (Pages 9 - 14)
6. **IMPACT OF HOUSING ON THE ECONOMY ACROSS ARGYLL AND BUTE**
Presentation by Argyll and Bute Strategic Housing and Communities Forum
7. **ARGYLL AND BUTE LOCAL SERVICES INITIATIVE**
Report by Social Enterprise Team, Argyll and Bute Council (Pages 15 - 20)
8. **UPDATE ON RURAL BROADBAND**
Report by IT Infrastructure Services Manager, Argyll and Bute Council (Pages 21 - 24)
9. **COMPLETION AND DROP OUT RATES OF APPRENTICESHIPS**
Report by Skills Development Scotland (to follow)

10. HIGHLIGHT AND EXCEPTION REPORTS

- (a) Argyll and Bute Strategic Housing and Communities Forum (Pages 25 - 28)
- (b) Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group (Pages 29 - 32)
- (c) Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network (Pages 33 - 36)

11. INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED ON CPP WEB PAGE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

ECONOMY THEMATIC CPP GROUP

John Binning, SPT	Ishabel Bremner, ABC
David Cannon, Cal Mac	Allan Comrie, SPT
Douglas Cowan, HIE (Thematic Lead)	Linda Haig, ACHA
Bill Stewart, SEN	Councillor Alister MacAlister, ABC
Jane MacLeod, Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce	
Councillor Donald MacMillan, ABC	Councillor Alex McNaughton, ABC
Frances Webster, SDS	
Robert Pollock, ABC	Councillor Elaine Robertson, ABC
Councillor Ron Simon, ABC (Chair)	Stewart Farmer, Federation of Small Businesses
Shirley MacLeod, ABC	Eileen Wilson, CPP
Donald MacVicar, ABC	Steve Doogan, ABC
Gerry Wilson, ABC	Arlene Cullum, ABC

Contact: Fiona McCallum Tel: 01546 604406

**MINUTES of MEETING of ECONOMY THEMATIC CPP GROUP held in the COUNCIL
CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD
on TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2011**

Present: Councillor Ron Simon (Chair)
Councillor Donald MacMillan
Councillor Alex McNaughton
Councillor Elaine Robertson
Douglas Cowan, Highland and Islands Enterprise (Thematic Lead)
Robert Pollock, Argyll and Bute Council
Bill Stewart, Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network

Attending: Iain Jackson, Governance and Law
Eileen Wilson, Community Planning Manager
Councillor Rory Colville (for item 4)
Elaine Garman, Argyll and Bute CHP (for item 4)
Sandy Mactaggart, Executive Director – Development and
Infrastructure Services (for item 4)
David Clements, Performance Manager (for item 5)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated from Councillor Alister MacAlister, Frances Webster, Skills Development Scotland, and Jane MacLeod, Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES

With reference to item 6 - Partner Updates, Robert Pollock advised that concern had been raised at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Local Area Community Planning Group that his progress report on the CHORD Programme had not included an update on Oban. Robert advised that he had confirmed to the Group that the update for Oban had been included within his update on the Lorn Arc Project.

The Minutes of the Economy Thematic CPP Group meeting held on 31 August 2011 were approved as a correct record.

4. BUDGET PRESENTATION

Sandy Mactaggart, Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure and Councillor Rory Colville, Spokesperson for Third Sector and Communities, of Argyll and Bute Council, together with Elaine Garman of Argyll and Bute CHP and Bill Stewart, Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network, gave a budget presentation on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership and highlighted the budget challenges that are being faced in the public sector and also how these pressures impact on the

Third Sector.

A question and answer session followed the presentation which was recorded by the Council's communications team and would inform the process.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of the presentation;
2. Noted that Douglas Cowan would discuss with Sandy Mactaggart a mechanism for investigating what the economic impact of cuts to budgets is across Argyll and Bute; what the likely impact will be in the future as a result of further cuts; and what, if any, early interventions could be undertaken and to report back to a future meeting; and
3. Agreed to invite Arlene Cullum of the Council's Social Enterprise Team, to bring a report to the next meeting on work currently being undertaken by the Argyll and Bute Local Services Initiative, a partnership between the Carnegie UK Trust, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network and the Third Sector.

Councillor Donald MacMillan joined the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item.

5. ECONOMY THEMATIC CPP GROUP SCORECARD

The Economy Thematic CPP Group scorecard has undergone repeated change over the past two years due in part to the agreement to have one scorecard to serve both the CPP Economy Thematic CPP Group and the Council's Economy Policy and Performance Group (PPG). At its meeting on 25 May 2011 the PPG agreed that it should have a separate Scorecard from the Thematic Group with direct links to the Economic Development Action Plan. Consideration was given to a report advising that the Groups would be best served by a generic Economy scorecard as the local economy is affected by a range of issues, both within and outwith the influence of both Groups.

Decision

Noted that the PPG had agreed to keep both Scorecards separate at the present time.

6. PARTNER UPDATES ON CPP PLAN

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

HIE

Douglas Cowan confirmed that work had started on development of the

Marine Science Park at Dunbeg and that the £7.5 m contract to create the first phase of development had been awarded to Robertson and was due to be completed by September 2012.

Douglas also referred to the economic circumstances on Bute and advised that he had hoped to pull together a paper for the Thematic Group and the CPP Management Committee regarding this serious issue and it was agreed that this could be a positive piece of work for Bute. Reference was made to Bute Community Land Company taking some steps towards regeneration of the island and the Ambitious for Bute vision document supported by HIE and the Council which set out a vision for the economic development of Island of Bute. It was agreed to raise this as an issue at the next CPP Management Committee and to seek support from Partners in order to address concerns.

Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network (ABSEN)

Bill Stewart referred to the work of the Argyll and Bute Local Services Initiative and recent away day and advised that ABSEN had just appointed a Graduate as their Communications and Outreach Officer. He also advised that Social Enterprise UK and Social Enterprise Scotland have joined forces to host the world's biggest social enterprise event. The Social Enterprise Exchange will take place on 27 March 2012 at the SECC in Glasgow and will host more than 1000 delegates and 150 business exhibitors. Further information on the work of ABSEN between August 2011 and November 2011 is detailed in a report attached at item 12c of this Minute.

Scottish Enterprise

Eileen Wilson referred to a leaflet prepared by Scottish Enterprise. The leaflet gave a short report on Scottish Enterprise (SE) activity in Argyll and Bute in the last six months. Eileen advised that it was the intention of SE to gather this data and forward on a bi annual basis and that they were looking for feedback on the layout and content of the leaflet. It was noted that the information contained only covered the Helensburgh and Lomond part of Argyll and Bute and Douglas Cowan agreed to consult with his colleagues to have information on the rest of Argyll and Bute included.

Argyll and Bute Council

Business Gateway

Robert Pollock advised that it had been a very positive second quarter of 2011/12 for Business Gateway and that business start ups supported was 52 against a target of 32, an increase of 52% over the first quarter and that they were broken down as follows:-

- 11 MAKI versus a target of 6; compared with 6 last year
- 22 OLI versus a target of 6; compared with 3 last year
- 5 B & C versus a target of 6; compared with 7 last year
- 14 H & L versus a target of 14; compared with 17 last year

He also advised that the number of existing businesses supported with advice or workshops was 78 (excluding H & L) in the second quarter compared to 115 in the previous quarter. This takes the half year total to 193 against a target of 250 and were broken down as follows:-

- MAKI 26
- OLI 27
- B & C 25

Renewables

Robert referred to the third meeting of the Argyll and Bute Renewables Alliance (ABRA) and that they were currently reviewing the Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) and that a report on this would be brought to a future meeting. He also referred to the infrastructure improvements to the new quay at Campbeltown.

Lorn Arc Project

Robert advised that the Council had received confirmation from the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) on 1 November 2011 that they had been selected as one of three projects across Scotland to work with the SFT to develop a Full Business Case (FBC) for the Lorn Arc Project which will focus on the extension of the Oban's North Pier and the road infrastructure in order to stimulate private sector investment and economic development in the Oban, Dunstaffnage, Dunbeg, North Connel and Barcaldine area. He advised that the Council would build on the support already received from public and private sector Partners to take the FBC forward.

Road Equivalent Tariff (RET)

Councillor Simon tabled a press release from Transport Scotland advising that the Minister for Housing and Transport, Keith Brown had announced that more islands were set to benefit from an extension of the RET following publication of the report on the RET pilot which showed clear indications that the pilot had boosted journeys by up to 31% benefitting tourism and local business. It was noted that the following routes were included in the RET Plans:-

Confirmed to continue from Spring 2012

Western Isles: Oban-Castlebay, Oban-Lochboisdale, Ullapool-Stornoway, Uig-Tarbert, Uig-Lochmaddy

Coll and Tiree: Oban-Coll-Tiree

Confirmed to begin a pilot in October 2012

Colonsay: Oban-Colonsay-Port Askaig-Kennacraig

Gigha: Tayinloan-Gigha

Islay: Kennacraig-Port Askaig/Port Ellen

Confirmed to begin a pilot in October 2014

Arran: Ardrossan-Brodick & Claonaig-Lochranza

Confirmed to be rolled out within the term of this Parliament

Bute: Colintrave-Rhubodach & Wemyss Bay-Rothesay

Cumbræ: Largs-Cumbræ Slip

Iona: Fionnphort-Iona

Lismore: Oban-Lismore

Mull: Oban-Craignure, Tobermory-Kilchoan & Lochaline-Fishnish

Raasay: Sconser-Raasay

Skye: Mallaig-Armadale

Small Isles: Mallaig-Eigg, Muck, Rum, Canna

Sound of Barra: Barra-Eriskay

Sound of Harris: Berneray-Leverburgh

Decision

Noted the Partner updates and the agreed actions from these.

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON CONTRACTING FOR GET READY FOR WORK

Consideration was given to a note of a meeting which reviewed the last six month's activity of Employability Programmes. Eileen Wilson advised that a representative from the Economy Thematic CPP Group to attend future meetings was still being sought and that it would be beneficial if someone with a background in training and employment could attend. She confirmed that the meetings would be held twice per year by video conference.

Decision

Agreed that Eileen should contact Ishabel Bremner, Economic Development Manager, to see if Ray McIntosh-Walley, Employability Manager, or one of his Managers could attend these meetings.

(Reference: Notes of Meeting dated 16 November 2011, tabled)

8. REPORT ON COMPLETION AND DROP OUT RATES IN RESPECT OF APPRENTICESHIPS

It was agreed to continue consideration of this item to the next meeting. Eileen Wilson advised that she believed Anthony Standing of Skills Development Scotland (SDS) was in a new role and agreed to contact SDS to clarify who should be invited to attend meetings of this Group along with Frances Webster.

9. RURAL BROADBAND

It was agreed to continue consideration of this item to the next meeting. It was noted that the HIE project was out to tender and an announcement on this was imminent and that the outcome of this would be reported at the next meeting.

10. COMMUNITY PLAN/SOA 2012-2013 SUCCESS MEASURES

The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is currently working on the new combined Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2012-13. The new plan will bridge the year from the end of the current SOA to the end of the current community plan. Although new outcomes have been agreed the CPP Themes will remain the same and many of the success measures already being used for the current thematic scorecards will still be relevant to the new outcomes. Consideration was given to a report detailing Outcomes and Success Measures relevant to the Economy Thematic CPP Group which were agreed at the CPP Management Committee on 19 October 2011. Eileen Wilson advised of further success measures to be added which she had received from the Third Sector Partnership.

Decision

Noted that Eileen Wilson and Douglas Cowan would finalise appropriate success measures for this Group and agreed that Partners should contact Eileen Wilson with any changes they wished to make to these in advance of the CPP Management Committee meeting on 14 December 2011.

(Reference: Report by Community Planning Manager, submitted)

11. THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Consideration was given to the key messages from a report entitled "The Role of Community Planning Partnerships in Economic Development" by Audit Scotland.

Decisions

Noted the contents of the report and that information contained in the report would be taken on board when considering the success measures to be included in the Single Outcome Agreement/Community Plan relevant to Economic Development.

(Reference: Report by Audit Scotland, submitted)

12. HIGHLIGHT AND EXCEPTION REPORTS

(a) ARGYLL AND BUTE STRATEGIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES FORUM

Consideration was given to a highlight and exception report provided by the Argyll and Bute Strategic Housing and Communities Forum.

Decision

Noted the activity that was undertaken by the Argyll and Bute Strategic Housing and Communities Forum during the period August – October 2011 and the key challenges and actions to be addressed in the future.

(Reference: Report by Argyll and Bute Strategic Housing and Communities Forum dated 11 October 2011, submitted)

(b) ARGYLL AND THE ISLANDS LEADER LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Consideration was given to a highlight and exception report provided by the Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group.

A copy of the Argyll and the Islands LEADER Programme 2007 - 2013 Annual Report for 2010/2011 was also tabled for information.

Decision

Noted the activity that was undertaken by the Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group during the period 1 August – 31 October 2011 and the key challenges and actions to be addressed in the future.

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

(c) ARGYLL AND BUTE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK

Consideration was given to a highlight and exception report provided by the Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network.

Decision

Noted the activity that was undertaken by the Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network during the period August – November 2011 and the key challenges and actions to be addressed in the future.

(Reference: Report by Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network dated 16 November 2011, submitted)

13. ITEMS ON AGENDA FOR INCLUSION ON CPP WEB PAGE

None.

14. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

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

Decision

Agreed that the following items would be included on the agenda for the next meeting on 29 February 2012:-

Partner Updates

Performance Management – Scorecard

Future Work Programme

Highlight and Exception Reports

Completion and Drop Out Rates of Apprenticeships

Information to be included on Thematic Web page

Rural Broadband

Report on Argyll and Bute Local Services Initiative

It was agreed that the theme for the next meeting would be Housing and that an invitation should be extended to the Housing and Communities Forum to give a presentation on the impact of Housing on the economy across Argyll and Bute.

**Argyll and Bute Community Planning
Partnership**



**Economy Theme Group
Scorecard
29th February 2012**

Performance Management

Summary

Screenshots of the current suite of Economy Scorecards are attached.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Economy Theme Group reviews the performance scorecards at this meeting.

For further information, please contact:

David Clements
Performance Manager
Chief Executive's Unit
Argyll and Bute Council

01465 604205

Economy Thematic Scorecard FQ3 11/12

Partnership Success Measures	Target	Actual	Status	Trend
Growth in the number of business start ups supported	103	127		
Number of Events/Meet Business Advisor Achieved	60	65		
Economy Thematic proposed measures				

Economic Indicators	Target	Actual	Status	Trend
(Unemployment charts Scorecard)				
(Economic Activity Scorecard)				
Link to economic impact data				

Economic Development Action Plans	Status	Trend
EDAP 2011	EDAP Scorecard	
Maintain planned rate of delivery of the EDAP	Target% Actual%	
	59 % 60 %	
Renewable Energy Action Plan		
Maintain the planned rate of delivery of the REAP	Target% Actual%	
	43 % 43 %	

National Outcomes (SOA)	Date of latest data	# of measures	# on track	Status	Trend
01 We live in a Scotland, attractive for business	FQ3 11/12	3	1		
02 Economic potential, better employment opportunities	FQ2 11/12	9	6		
03 We are better educated and skilled	FQ4 09/10	1	0		

EDAP 2011 Plan & Scorecard FQ3 11/12
 Scorecard approved by **Ishabel Bremner**



EDAP Scorecard Theme - Competitive A&B **A** →

Business Gateway	G →	G ↑	G ↑		
Startup and Growth	R →	R ↑	G ↑	R →	R ↑
CHORD	G →	G →		G →	G →
Rural & Islands	G →		G ↑	G ↑	
Dunstaffnage					
Renewable Energy					
Tourism, Food & Drink, Forestry	G ↑	G ↑		G	

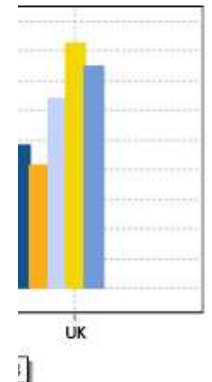
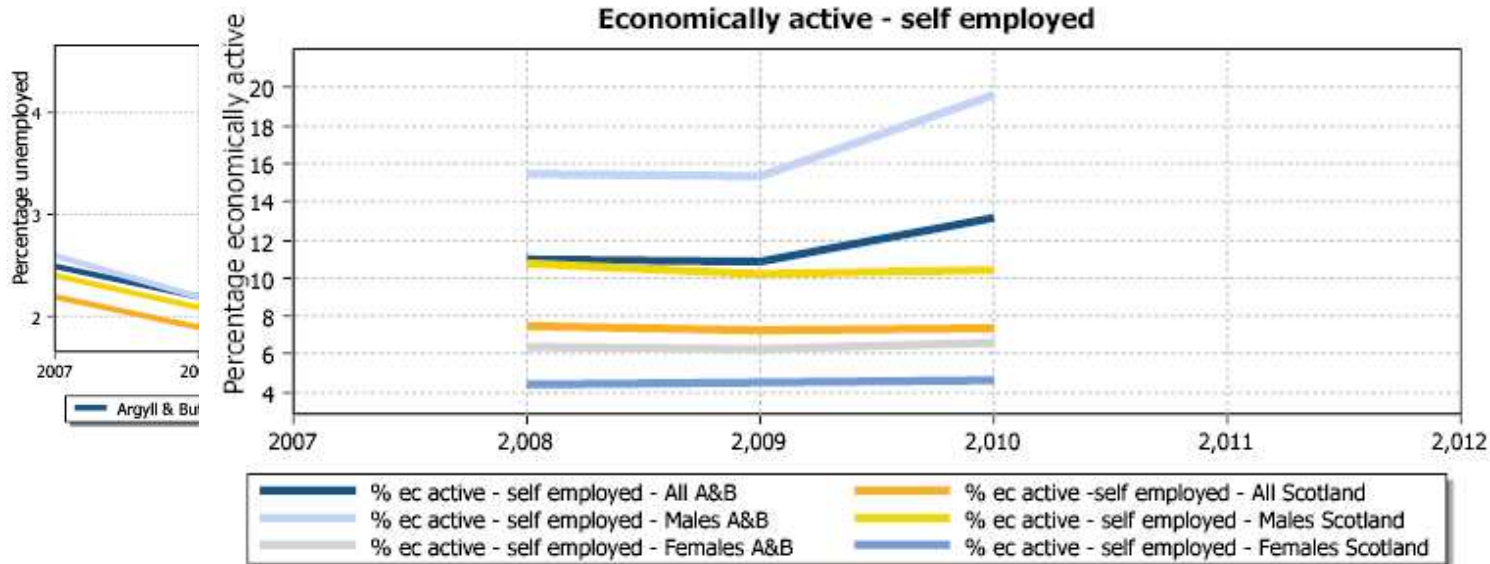
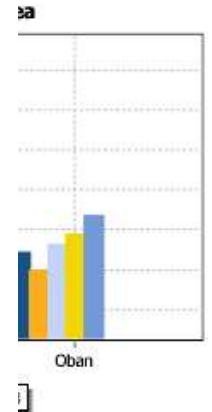
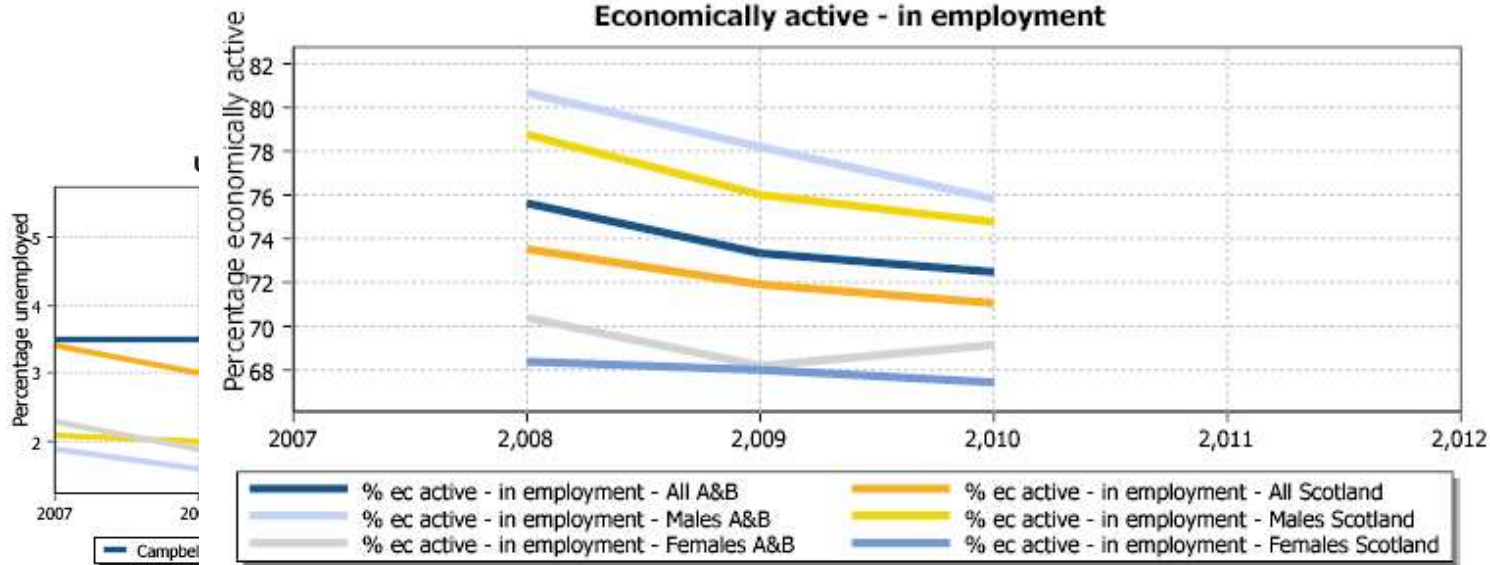
EDAP Scorecard Theme - Connected A&B **G** →

Transport Infrastructure		
Road Safety	G →	G →

EDAP Scorecard Theme - Collaborative A&B **G** →

SRDP	G →	G ↑
European Policies & Funding		
Employability & Skill Development	G →	G →
Profile	G →	G ↑
Social Enterprise		

EDAP Scorecard Risks TO BE AMENDED	H =	M =	L =
Risk - % exposure	FQ2 11/12 34 %	FQ3 11/12	



[Link to figures](#)

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Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

Economy Thematic Group
Date: 29th February 2012



Argyll and Bute Local Services Initiative (ABLSI) Working with Carnegie UK Trust, Argyll and Bute Council, Third Sector Partnership (Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network and Argyll Voluntary Action), NHS.

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The CPP Economy Thematic Group requested a report on the work of the ABLSI for this meeting on 29th February 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The CPP Economy Thematic Group note the contents of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 ABLSI is a partnership of statutory and third sector organisations, and the Carnegie UK Trust. It delivers on many of the recommendations of the *Harnessing the Potential of the Third Sector to Help Achieve Council Objectives, Demonstration Project, 2010*.

ABLSI aims to identify service areas where there is a real potential for the public sector in Argyll and Bute to work with the third sector to determine ways in which co-production might improve the quality of services while also achieving efficiencies. It also aims to share this learning with others in the Carnegie UK Trust Community of Practice, and learn from other members. This work is supported by HIE and has a budget of £90,000 to March 2013. From this total budget, approx £56,000 now remains and is aligned to a workplan, and previous spend has been in the areas of work outlined below.

- 3.2 The partners in ABLSI offered support to all service review managers through open sessions on social enterprise and detailing what support ABLSI could provide namely; identification of best practice, consultation with third sector, skills audit, social enterprise training and facilitating cross-departmental working. As a result of this, ABLSI is providing direct support to the services below and is developing an Impact Assessment Toolkit for use by services. This will help measure impacts on both council and other statutory organisations such as NHS, and is intended to form part of service reviews alongside the Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit. Work with services;

Waste Management – support to social enterprises undergoing budget cuts, and facilitated sessions on SLA's and contracts with the Council have led to a better understanding for both and a way forward. A re-use event and review of potential growth of community recycling will take place in May 2012.

Education – Social enterprise information and a budget provided to establish Artsquest. This work has been completed with learning still to be captured.

Children and Families – support through time, information and finance, for co-production approach to wholesale changes in the grant process. The first stage of this was a stakeholder engagement event hosted by Governance International which resulted in the attached document *Making it Better, Argyll and Bute Children and Families Event*. This event/document provided the foundation for taking forward a programme of work which culminated in changes presented to the council as part of the ongoing budget process. We will continue to support the proposed changes where it fits with ABLSI objectives.

Planning – Assisting and part financing feasibility study into the establishment of a Coast and Countryside Trust. This will report back in May 2012.

Older People's Services – Providing information and support, including training to council staff wishing to consider establishing a social enterprise. This has resulted in two possible new start ups.

3.3 Work plan – Next 12 months

Promoting Third Sector and Co-Production of Delivery of Public Services
Developing and shaping the learning from projects into case studies and recommendations. Sharing these on-line and at local events, through the media and at a bespoke event in September for the new Council.

Re-use Event

Showcasing learning from around the UK and presenting opportunities for income generation through re-use.

Developing a Social Impact Toolkit

Complimenting both the Argyll and Bute Council Equalities and Sustainability toolkits, to provide a robust model for considering social impact of potential changes to Council services. As per the other toolkits this will be available to other statutory and third sector organisations.

Volunteering and Retirement

Developing and promoting opportunities for Council staff, who are preparing to retire, to make use of their skills through volunteering.

Service Delivery

Continuing work with projects; Children and Families, Waste Management,

Older People's Services and Coast and Countryside Trust.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** The ABLSI project is a unique opportunity for developing co-production of service delivery with the Third Sector and furthering the work of the Demonstration Project. It has assisted in improving the Children and Families grant process and Waste Management contracts, and indeed, through a more open dialogue, has improved relationships between the council and third sector partners.

We are in the process of capturing learning from everyone involved in our projects and this learning will be used to produce conclusions for our proposed events this year, to share this with Carnegie UK Trust, and to drive forward the legacy of the project.

For further information contact: Arlene Cullum, Social Enterprise Team,
Argyll and Bute Council

Email: arlene.cullum@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Telephone: 01436 658727

Attachments:
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Argyll and Bute Local Services Initiative

What is ABLSI

ABLSI is a partnership initiative bringing together Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network, Argyll Voluntary Action, and Argyll & Bute Community Health, NHS.

ABLSI is investigating whether asset-based approaches to service innovation can help to sustain (and improve) services even during a time of cuts and increasing actual costs. It offers an opportunity for local practitioners to learn from practice, analyse risk factors and develop and support stakeholders to develop service models which meet the long term needs of communities.

The work is part of a Rural Development Community of Practice (CoP), which is supported by Carnegie UK Trust and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The CoP enables activists, professionals and policy makers from across the UK and Ireland to support and learn from one other online and at face-face events.



How ABLSI came about

The ABLSI was developed based on recommendations from the Argyll and Bute 'Harnessing the Potential of the Third Sector to Help Achieve Council Objectives Demonstration Project' (Demonstration Project.) This was established in 2008 following a meeting between the Council Leader and the Head of the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland. It is a record of the work that Argyll and Bute Council under-took to help develop and maintain sustainable communities, working jointly with community, voluntary and social enterprise organisations, collectively known as the Third Sector.

In 2007 Carnegie UK Trust was invited to speak at the Community Planning Partnership Biennial Conference in Rothesay. This meeting led to an informal partnership between the Trust and the Council. In March 2008, Carnegie UK Trust and the Council Leader delivered a joint paper to the Convention of the Highlands and Islands in Inverness. This paper laid down the challenges for local authorities in ensuring the sustainability of rural communities, and it is these challenges, which encapsulated the Demonstration Project work programme.

The full report from the Demonstration Project with recommendations can be viewed here - <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/demonstration-project>

Participation in Carnegie UK Trust Rural Development Community of Practice

The Demonstration Project recommended measures to support the development of asset-based approaches to service improvement throughout Argyll and Bute. One recommendation proposed continued working with Carnegie UK Trust to ensure local practitioners benefited from exchanging learning with others across the UK and Ireland.

On the basis of this recommendation, Carnegie UK Trust and Highlands and Islands Enterprise came together to support the establishment of a new initiative - the Argyll and Bute Local Services Initiative (ABLSI), to:

Identify service areas where there is a real potential for the public sector in Argyll and Bute to work with the Third Sector over a period of time to determine ways in which collaboration might improve the quality of services while also achieving efficiencies.

Current Work (2011)

Within the current climate of reduced budgets, the public sector is faced with difficult challenges in continuing to deliver services for communities at a lower price where actual costs are continuing to increase. ABLSI partners including the Council and NHS in Argyll and Bute recognise that



communities and the Third Sector are important resources for delivering local solutions to local issues. They also recognise the need to factor in impacts on community sustainability and quality of life of any changes.

During 2011, the Argyll and Bute Local Services Initiative will be working in the areas of:

- Funding (Participative and open budget planning,)
- Procurement and risk management
- Asset development – skills and training
- Asset-transfer (physical)



Focus of Inquiry

Throughout the project we will gather information from existing examples of practice and new areas of work to identify the essential operational elements that are required for public services to develop effectively and sustainably with the third sector. Areas of focus will include:

- Access to capacity and skills for delivering and managing services for the long term future.
- Factors such as financial and organisational security as well as risk management which enable organisations to build from a robust starting point.
- Considerations when transferring assets, either human or physical to maximise community benefits.



How to get involved

- If you are a third sector organisation in Argyll and Bute and want to find out more – please contact Bill Stewart, Development Manager, ABSEN- william.stewart@absen.org.uk
- If you are interested in this area of work and would like to find out more or share your experiences please sign up to the community of practice – www.fieryspirits.com and join in the discussions in the Developing Rural Services – Transfer Process theme topic. <http://fieryspirits.com/page/developing-rural-services>



Provision of Broadband in Rural Areas – Progress Report

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Members will recall previous Council and EPPG updates regarding the broadband projects operating across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The UK Government created a new body in 2010, Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), with a broad national remit to improve connectivity and bandwidth availability across the UK. A principal objective is to deliver superfast broadband to 90% of UK homes and businesses by 2015 with the remainder accessing similar services by 2020.
- 1.2. To date BDUK have announced funding for several projects including 4 pilot superfast broadband projects, one of which covers the Highlands and Islands area, and several bidding rounds for English Local Authorities. The local project is managed by Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) who are now in competitive dialogue with potential suppliers.
- 1.3. The Pathfinder North network contract expires in March 2014 and the project board has requested continued funding support from the Scottish Government for this essential network. The project board recently submitted an outline business case and options appraisal to the Scottish Government team in support of that funding bid.
- 1.4. It is looking more likely the Scottish Government will seek to bring both the HIE and Pathfinder North projects together but this will become clearer on receipt of a formal ministerial response to the OBC.
- 1.5. This paper provides an update on all of the above developments.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That members note the current status of the HIE BDUK Superfast Broadband Initiative and the re-procurement of the Pathfinder North project.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1. The Pathfinder re-procurement comes at a time when two high profile initiatives are being led by the Scottish Government: the creation of a Scottish Public Services Network (SPSN) which is informed by the McClelland Review of ICT infrastructure in Scotland; and the next-generation broadband (NGB) programme, which is being led by the Scottish Government's Digital Strategy, and informed by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK).

- 3.2. Regarding the NGB, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and the South of Scotland Alliance (SoSA) are at advanced stages of development. HIE is currently in competitive dialogue with bidders for the provision of NGB services. HIE has currently secured £20 million funding for a project that is estimated to cost between £200 million and £300 million, although detailed cost modelling is underway to confirm this.
- 3.3. Of specific interest to Pathfinder North, the HIE NGB project aims to align with the wider aims of the UK Government, the Scottish Government and the European Commission, and will seek to encourage private sector investment across the region in order to stimulate the provision of NGB services to all. This will be a highly significant project for the Highlands and Islands, with the potential to make a step change in connectivity across the region, which covers more than half the land area of Scotland. The primary objective is to ensure the delivery of NGB at 30Mbit/s or above to all by 2020. By 2015 significant progress will have been made to this goal, and a minimum of 2Mbit/s will be available to all. Pathfinder North and HIE have a reciprocal arrangement at respective Board meetings, and have a close working relationship. To achieve this target, HIE foresees that a number of stages will be required, with the first stage scoped out to target 50 key towns across the region, comprising 50% of the population.
- 3.4. The Pathfinder North project will have cost almost GBP70 million over the first 7 years. The next contract is expected to be more expensive than the previous contract. The Scottish Government has made GBP144 million available for the provision of superfast broadband across the whole of Scotland. It is possible (though details are unconfirmed) that additional funding from the Cabinet Office will be made available for the provision of such services across the UK as a whole. Funding provisions for re-procuring of PSN-compliant networks are unknown at the time of writing this document.
- 3.5. Both the NGB and PSN initiatives are currently being driven in parallel, although there is acknowledgement within the Scottish Government that they will need to converge to some extent in the near future. However, plans are at a preliminary stage; they are likely to evolve and therefore do not provide the Pathfinder North Partnership with the stable foundation from which to develop future procurement and technical options, particularly in the short term.
- 3.6. The Partnership is limited in how it may influence the use of the Pathfinder North network to provide community broadband. C&W has confirmed that the demand for community broadband in the Highlands and Islands is unproven, and as such will require State-Aid-compliant intervention funding from the Scottish Government to make investment economical; this is a matter being addressed directly by the HIE NGB programme and funded by the Scottish Government.
- 3.7. The Pathfinder North Partnership have been advised *not* seek to increase its operational remit to directly and comprehensively provide community broadband services. To do so would require a capital spend and organisational effort significantly greater than that considered in the OBC presented to the Scottish Government. The HIE NGB project has the operational remit for community broadband. The Pathfinder solution should not be considered as an alternative to HIE NGB, but one that may provide valuable infrastructure (including backhaul

capacity) that will serve HIE's efforts by making available 'open access' or providing wholesale services. The resulting network can be better utilised to stimulate competition and foster a wider service across the Highlands and Islands.

Gerry Wilson
IT Infrastructure Manager
21 February 2012

For further information please contact:
Gerry Wilson, IT Infrastructure Manager, Tel 01436 658936

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Strategic Partnership Highlight & Exception Report

argyll and bute

communityplanningpartnership



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) Please refer to attached table for more detail on each CPP Outcome.	<input type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP01 – competitive and successful businesses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP02 – sustainable economic assets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP03 – vibrant towns that are centres of economic growth <input type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP04 – promoting our cultural, social and natural heritage <input type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP05 – Utilising our environment to create employment and prosperity <input type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP06 – Protecting our unique area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP07 – services are planned and delivered based on local need <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP08 – overall health, wellbeing, independence and social inclusion are improved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP09 – people feel safe and secure <input type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP010 – our diverse culture is celebrated

<p>Activity Summary in Period (please state period you are reporting on)</p>	<p>October 2011- December 2011</p> <p>The Forum meeting arranged for November 2011 was rescheduled for 19th January 2012, however, in the interim the Council's Executive convened an additional meeting to deal with a range of Housing issues on 24th November 2011 at which the following recommendations were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final version of the Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016 was approved for submission to the Scottish Government. The revised draft includes new affordable housing supply target of 550 homes by 2016 (or 110 annually). • Applications to the Strategic Housing Fund were approved, including disposal of the Hermitage Academy site, £510,000 grant and £800,000 loan to Dunbritton Housing Association for the provision of 51 affordable homes; £500,000 grant to West Highland Housing Association to support 50 affordable homes at Dunbeg; £97,000 grant to ACHA to support 8 affordable homes at Dalmally; and £1.9m loan to Fyne Homes in respect of shared equity properties in Rothesay. • The creation of a ring-fenced Rural Housing Development Fund of £750,000 to stimulate rural regeneration and address housing need in specified areas was agreed. Bids for suitable projects by RSLs or local community trust are now invited. • Progress on the Homelessness 2012 targets – from 1st April 2012 all unintentionally homeless people will be determined as being in priority need and consequently will be entitled to settled accommodation. • The Designation of Pressured Areas across Argyll & Bute was approved in accordance with the Council's new powers under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010. From 31st April 2012, certain RSL tenants within the designated areas will have their Right To Buy suspended for a period of 10 years. <p>In terms of the key performance indicators for Housing within the Community Plan/SOA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable homes completions- there were 14 new shared equity units & 3 for social rent in this quarter with Fyne Homes' development in Lochgilphead coming on stream in October 2011. • Repeat homelessness within 12 months of case being completed decreased between quarters 2 & 3, from 5% (the current target and Scottish average) to 3.9% (however, it should be noted that this relates to only 4 cases).
<p>Key Challenges & Actions to Address</p>	<p>Uncertainty over future funding and the strategic investment framework for housing development continues to present the key challenge, with the Scottish Government now indicating that the competitive process introduced last year via the Investment & Innovation Fund will not continue in future years.</p>

	<p>While 3 year resource planning assumptions are promised, there is as yet no clarity on the mechanisms to be introduced or likely funding to be made available to local authorities. The additional impact of rural development costs also continue to present significant challenges for the partnership.</p> <p>As ever, the impact of current economic trends and national policy drivers such as welfare reform, the 2012 homeless target, the 2015 SHQS target, and the 2016 Fuel Poverty target all present major challenges.</p>
Name	Moira MacVicar
Date	23 rd January 2012

Please complete and return to:

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Strategic Partnership Highlight & Exception Report

Strategic Partnership (Name of Partnership you are reporting on)	Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group
CPP Thematic Group (i.e Economy, Environment or Social Affairs)	Economy
CPP Outcome (please select – you can select more than one outcome)	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP01 – competitive and successful businesses</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP02 – sustainable economic assets</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP03 – vibrant towns that are centres of economic growth</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP04 – promoting our cultural, social and natural heritage</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP05 – Utilising our environment to create employment and prosperity</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP06 – Protecting our unique area</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP07 – services are planned and delivered based on local need</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP08 – overall health, wellbeing, independence and social inclusion are improved</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP09 – people feel safe and secure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CPP/CP10 – our diverse culture is celebrated</p>

**Activity
Summary in
Period**
(please state
period you are
reporting on)

At the December 2012 LEADER LAG (sixteenth round) a total of 16 projects were awarded funding totalling £586,784. A few examples to highlight are as follows:

- a) Argyll College –£104,370, for the development of an engineering training facility at Lochgilphead
- b) Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society (SAOS) were awarded £22,500 for an Argyll farm woodland collaboration project in Kintyre which will provide support to land managers and woodland workers to support active farm woodland management, encourage the control of invasive species, encourage the production of wood fuel and provide training opportunities.
- c) Argyll and Isles Tourism Ltd were awarded £54,500 to establish an Argyll and Isles corporate identity across the region by building a collective approach that all the sub regions buy into, raising awareness of Argyll and the Isles as a high quality destination to the Tourist consumer and increasing visitor numbers and visitor spend in Argyll and the Isles. This will be achieved by using a facilitator to hold a series of meetings and workshops throughout the area to demonstrate the benefit of a pan region approach and to receive feedback from groups, developing marketing materials for trade shows, attending trade shows, communication to the consumer through various forms of media to raise the profile of the region and developing a website

Full details all projects funded are available on our website

www.argyllandtheislandsleader.org.uk

THE NEXT FUNDING MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 15th of March 2012

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

sheila.mclean@argyll-bute.gov.uk

The Argyll and the Islands LEADER LAG Annual Report 2010/11 was published at the end of August. A report highlighting the work of all 20 LEADER Local Action Groups in Scotland was also published at the end of August. Please contact the project coordinators if you would like a copy of either publication.

Key Challenges & Actions to Address		
	Challenge	Action to Address
	The current economic situation continues to have an impact on the funding available to groups developing projects	Continue to signpost projects to the most appropriate funder to maximise resources
	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	Ensuring 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
	The development of the new LEADER Programme for 20014 – 2020	Participate in the development of the new programme at a local, National and European level
Name	Sheila McLean Argyll and the Islands LEADER Project Coordinator	
Date	17/2/12	

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Strategic Partnership Highlight & Exception Report

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

<p>Activity Summary in Period (please state period you are reporting on)</p> <p>December 2011 – February 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 New Social Enterprises established • 69 e-mail/telephone enquiries handled from Social Enterprise Contacts • Work continues with Argyll & Bute Local Services Initiative (ABLSI) – covered in separate report to meeting. • Support visits to 6 potential/new and existing social enterprises. • ABSEN > Graduate now in place as Communications and Outreach Officer. • Participation in EFQM and MILO Training. • Participation in steering group (A&B Council & TSP) for “Fundraising Event” being held in Kilmory on 17th March, 2012. • Support to HIE Focus Group Meeting in Oban on 3rd February, 2012. • ABSEN Regional meeting held on 7th February in Inveraray.
<p>Key Challenges & Actions to Address</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create & maintain a relevant, responsive, interactive ABSEN web site. • Support social enterprises to scale up and help enable them to bid for, and take on Council contracts. • Work with ABLSI Steering Group to close out 2012 action plan.
<p>Name</p>	<p>Bill Stewart</p>
<p>Date</p>	<p>17th February, 2012</p>

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Social Affairs Fiona.mccallum@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Third Sector and Communities Rebecca.stokes@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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