

# DRAFT 1

## PROPOSAL TO RESTRUCTURE ARGYLL AND BUTE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP THEME TWO GROUP (IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT) AND ARGYLL AND THE ISLANDS LOCAL ECONOMIC FORUM.

### Background

The Scottish Executive, through The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 requires Councils to operate a Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The aim of the CPP is to ensure that there is effective delivery of relevant services to the community. Other public agencies are expected to cooperate and the community must be consulted.

The Scottish Executive required Local Economic Forums (LEF) to be created to carry out the specific task of reviewing the provision of business support, identifying duplication and gaps. They subsequently directed that a single point of contact for businesses should be made available by the public sector. They required that a Local Economic Strategy be developed and endorsed by the forums.

The boundaries of the LEF's and CPP's do not coincide. Argyll & Bute CPP, led by Argyll and Bute Council, covers the A&BC area and the Argyll & Islands LEF (AILEF), led by AIE, covers the A&BC area except for an area east of Arrochar that is part of Dunbartonshire LEF (DLEF), and also includes Arran and the Cumbraes, a part of North Ayrshire. The Argyll and Bute CPP has two LECs as members and the AILEF has two councils as members.

Both groups have an interest in the economy and the topics that impact thereon. At a Ministerial Briefing it was stated that the LEF should provide the economic input to Community Planning. The challenge is to find a way of drawing together the input of two different LEF in an efficient and coherent manner.

Dr McTaggart was directed to bear in mind, when writing up Argyll and the Islands Local Economic Forum Economic Strategy to consider compatibility with the Dunbartonshire strategy.

### Aim of Paper

Now that the LEF Economic Strategy has been finalised and endorsed by the full CP Partnership it has become apparent that there is significant overlap in economic matters, between the CPP and LEF. This paper sets out to describe a streamlined work method to take forward the work of the LEF and integrate it with the CPP process.

### Recommendation

It is proposed that the composition of the AILEF be modified to include:

- The Community Planning Partnership Manager
- Such other public bodies or Council representatives as the Forum deems necessary

The public would be invited to attend by advertisement as at present.

The Agendas/discussion topics would be as follows:

- Progress against the agreed economic strategy
- Reports on key partnership projects
- Presentations to the group on matters relating to economic development

Reports would be fed into the CPP Management Group. One meeting a year would be held jointly with representatives of the Dunbartonshire Forum to review the economic landscape at the Argyll and Bute Council area level. Representation of a wide range of agencies will probably attend this meeting. A joint report would be made to CPP.

The Group 2 would cease to meet in its present form

### Action

This draft is being circulated to the CPP and the two LEF's for comment.

Alan Milstead  
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