

CPP Management Committee

17 August 2005

Biennial conference

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

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

Summary of workshop outputs

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

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

Future developments

Single public service authority

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

Perceived benefits from this approach are:

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

Partners are encouraged to adopt a similar approach.

Existing priority themes

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

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

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

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

CPP-wide implications

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

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

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

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