

CPP Management Committee – 8 February 2006 – Agenda Item No. 5(a)(ii)
Report on the December 2005 Meeting of the Argyll & Islands
Local Economic Forum to the Argyll & Bute Community
Planning Partnership.

Under Matters Arising: It was reported that 65 fte were now employed by the Campbeltown Call Centre. There was a discussion on the proposed Marine National Park and its economic impact on the area. The Council Transport Strategy workshops have been held covering five themes:

- Economy
- Environments
- Integration
- Safety
- Access

The group preparing the strategy are open to representations and can be contacted on Blair Fletcher blair.fletcher@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Ken McTaggart, Economic Consultant, joined the meeting via video conference to discuss the **Strategy Progress Measures**. He explained that there was a difference between policy and measurement, the first was general, but the second, being about numbers is very precise. Also the measures available to mark progress did not cover the exact area, but would be changed over time would provide an indication of progress. The draft report, that had been circulated, covered all 17 measures and in some case there were two indicators. The report would be completed for the 4th quarter 05.

Comparisons would be made with other areas, and with Scotland as a whole. There would be a commentary to put the measures into context. There were a number of places where additional input from Members would be welcomed. There were discussions on a number of the measures that illustrated not only that there was some refining to be done, but also the shortcomings of the data sets.

Agricultural measurements had been added as a response to the A&B Agricultural Forum's presentation to the CCP Management Committee, and the possibility of measuring primary, secondary and tertiary production was highlighted.

The in-migration from Eastern EU countries to Argyll to work in the Hospitality trade was discussed. Many wished to settle, to be encouraged per national and local strategies, but the problems with available, affordable

housing were highlighted. It was subsequently agreed that a housing measure should be included. However it was noted that it was important to be able to measure movements and compare with national figures.

Patrick Flynn from Communities Scotland reported that the communities Minister was asking for a finalised **strategy for social enterprise** by June 06. As the local partnership, based on Argyll and Bute had a smaller sector the national strategy needed to reflect the needs of the social economy sector that was outside the control belt. The local group were meeting in early January 06 to meet with the consultant who had been carrying out a survey of the local sector. Stephen Whiston highlighted the work being done to establish a Social Economic model within the health care sector on Islay.

Jane Fowler, from Argyll & Bute Council explained how changes to the CAP and the **Rural Development Regulation** would affect agricultural businesses in particular, but also the wider rural economy. Changes to the farming landscape could impact on tourism in particular. It therefore presents an opportunity for wider integration strategy:

- Supporting Businesses (eg niche markets)
- Making best use of the environment.
- Rural infrastructure (including A&B Agriculture Forum Strategy priorities – eg Rural Business Ring)

The Rural Development Regulation was out for consultation by SEERAD at present – due by Feb/March 2006, and after a report prepared to be with European Commission by May 06. The new funding programme is due to commence in January 2007. The cross-cutting agenda of the Rural Development Regulation would affect the wide range of business in Argyll and the Islands.

Topics agreed for future meetings:

- National Tourism Strategy.
- Strategy for modernising Health Service in Argyll.

Dates for 2006:

Wednesday 15 February

Wednesday 07 June

Wednesday 20 September.