

The Argyll and Bute Community Plan

The first Community Plan was launched in April 2001. The second Community Plan is due to be published in June 2007 and will set out the strategic priorities and key actions to be tackled by the Partnership over the next five years (2007-11).

This paper proposes that the new Community Plan be based around the leading Rural Area vision for Argyll and Bute and be developed through a process of collaboration where partners and communities have the opportunity to comment on the proposed key topics to be addressed by the partnership over the next five year period.

Working in partnership

Many organisations, groups and individuals were involved in putting together the first Argyll and Bute Community Plan, providing the framework for closer partnership working and better service delivery.

This is a long term process and the biennial conferences have allowed us to evaluate the Plan and gather more information from partners to enable the development of the new updated Community Plan.

The Community Plan is an essential part of the process of delivering better services through better partnership, collaboration and engagement with communities.

The Plan 2007-2011

The New Community Plan will be built around the Argyll and Bute: Leading Rural Area vision.

Argyll and Bute: Leading Rural Area

Outstanding Environment

high quality environment that is valued, recognised and protected
the environment is respected as a valued asset that can provide sustainable opportunities for business
an identity that is recognised and appreciated globally with a range of businesses that use the high quality image
an area that is accessible, yet retains its remote character

Vibrant Communities

safe supportive communities with positive culture and sense of pride in the area
well balanced demographically with young people choosing to stay or move to the area
vibrant local economy that is based on core attributes of the area, flexible and open to new opportunities
a sense of history with a view to the future
housing that is appropriate and affordable with local people able to participate in the housing market
high quality public services and leisure/community facilities that attract people to settle in Argyll and Bute

Forward Looking

communities that are culturally rich with a desire to excel
proactive communities where local people and organisations look for and create opportunities
decentralised public sector with more delivery of high quality 'professional' services from Argyll and Bute
partnership working across all sectors to coordinate developments, market Argyll and Bute and remove constraints that limit possibilities
communities that learn and use that knowledge

In Argyll and Bute the vision for the Leading Rural Area would be that:

- All sections of the community are actively involved in decision-making
- That through strong partnerships good quality public services can be provided
- That our communities are safe and our citizens are healthy and looked after
- That jobs and opportunities are available to all
- That all development is sustainable

Key Topics

Based on the leading Rural Area Vision the Community Planning Partnership will identify a number of key topics to be addressed over the next 5 years.

These topics might include:

- Property – multi use of buildings
- Managing change of use of land
- Public Sector Reform
- Demographic change
- Advocacy for rural areas – making the case for rural areas not to loose out

The new topics should be more overarching, addressing issues that affect the whole of Argyll and Bute and benefiting from having been designed to reflect the supporting structures that exist within the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership. This will allow the Plan to be closely monitored and therefore ensure we are moving in the right direction to achieve our vision.

Building the Plan will happen between now and June 2007 when a draft plan will be presented at the 2007 Biennial Conference. The process will foster new working relationships, build on strengths of existing ones, create new opportunities for joint initiatives and identify new opportunities.

The first phase of this process is to discuss and agree key topics. This will be followed up by a more detailed process enabling all partners to further refine the focus of the chosen key topics.

The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership is committed to continuously improving engagement and communication.

Eileen Wilson
Community Planning Manager