

Strategic Partnership Highlight & Exception Report



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)	SOCIAL AFFAIRS
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

Activity Summary in
Period

(please state period you are
reporting on)

April 2011 – July 2011

The Forum met on 17th June 2011 and considered
following issues:

- **Review of Forum remit & membership** - generally positive feedback on operation and membership of partnership. New structures to include local area housing fora with community representation to feed into central Forum.
- **Local Housing Strategy** - The Scottish Government has formally approved the Housing Needs & Demand Assessment for Argyll & Bute as being “robust & credible” – this is now available from council website. The Forum approved the consultative draft LHS for circulation to stakeholders and wider public dissemination. Consultation period ends in September 2011. The LHS incorporates a Housing Information & Advice Strategy and an Empty Homes Strategy which are also both out for consultation.
- **Strategic Housing Investment Plan** - The Scottish Government has provided very positive formal feedback on the 2010 SHIP (with particular reference to stakeholder engagement via Forum). However, major changes to the processes and budget available for affordable housing development will have a critical impact on the delivery of the SHIP programme in future. A number of bids for affordable housing projects have been submitted to the Scottish Govt’s new Investment & Innovation Fund and the outcome should be known by end of August

	<p>2011, however, there is no guarantee that A&B will attract any funding this year at all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Build Completions – there were no RSL completions in this quarter, however, progress has been made, with ongoing developments in Campbeltown & Lochgoilhead. • HOME Argyll – Recent CHR staff review days focused on new Housing Options approach and impact of Welfare Benefit reform. • Rural Housing Enabler Project – LL&TNP have appointed a RHE to promote affordable housing issues and explore opportunities at level of local communities. In A&B, the main focus is likely to be Luss. • A&BC Main Issues Report – Planners have issued the MIR for consultation. This is closely aligned with HNDA & LHS and was considered by the Forum.
Key Challenges & Actions to Address	Key challenge remains the loss of core development funding and fundamental restructuring of public investment in affordable housing which will impact on supply while at the same time need & demand are exacerbated by economic trends and national policy shifts such as welfare & benefit reforms.
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Date	28 th July 2011

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