



## **Argyll and Bute CPP Bulletin 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

Welcome to the latest issue of the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership Bulletin.

This regular bulletin is a place for sharing items of interest between community planning partners and our wider network of readers who are interested in the work of the Community Planning Partnership. These include links to strategies, consultations, reports, training, conferences & news stories.

If you have items you would like to share through this bulletin, please send links with up to 200 words of introductory text to: [cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

We make every effort to ensure that any hyperlinks in the Bulletin work – some of them may take longer to load. If you require printed copies of any of the documents attached in the Bulletin please contact: [cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk).

## **New in This Bulletin:**

### **Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-34**

#### **Outcome 1 – Transport Infrastructure**

- [Have your say: Draft Regional Transport Strategy for the Highlands and Islands](#)
- [Best Practice Guidance on Community Engagement for bus services](#)

#### **Outcome 2 - Housing**

- [Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency](#)
- [Housing project for workers on Mull gets underway](#)

#### **Outcome 3 – Community Wellbeing**

- [Have your say: Shaping the future Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)
- [Public Health Scotland Learning Zone](#)

#### **Ongoing partnership work**

- [Climate Change](#)
  - o [Have your say: Draft Bioenergy Policy Statement](#)
  - o [Have your say: Flood Resilience Strategy](#)
- [Community Wealth Building](#)
  - o [Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute: A Framework for Action](#)
  - o [Models of Opportunity](#)
- [Digital Inclusion](#)
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  - o [Digital Switchover](#)
- [Financial Inclusion](#)
  - o [Help during the cost of living crisis](#)
  - o [UK Poverty 2024 report](#)

#### **Community Planning Improvement Board**

- [Briefings](#)

#### **Previous Items You May Have Missed...**

- [Police Scotland- Right to Ask](#)
- [Transformation Programme Launches Leadership Practitioner Forum](#)
- [Investment Scams - Police Scotland Warnings](#)
- [Argyll and Bute Council – Advice and Assistance in the Cost of Living Crisis](#)

#### **Funding Links**

#### **Other bulletins and newsletters that may be of interest**

#### **Partner Websites**

## **Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034**

The Community Planning Partnership has published [the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034](#), which will provide the focus for its work over the next ten years.

The Outcomes Improvement Plan for 2024-2034 will focus on improving:

Outcome 1: Transport Infrastructure

Outcome 2: Housing

Outcome 3: Community Wellbeing



The Community Planning Partnership Bulletin seeks to spotlight information relevant to each of these outcomes, as well as previously established partnership work.

## **Outcome 1: Transport Infrastructure**

### **Have your say: Draft Regional Transport Strategy for the Highlands and Islands**

The Regional Transport Partnership for the Highlands and Islands, HITRANS, is seeking views on a draft 20-year vision for transport improvements in Argyll and Bute and across the wider Highlands and Islands.

The draft strategy contains six objectives which aim to provide the framework for strategic development of transport across the region, overlapping considerably with the transport-related themes identified in the new Outcomes Improvement Plan.

The consultation runs for eight weeks and comments are sought on the strategy and associated policies.

[HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy: Consultation](#)



**Closing Date: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

## **Best Practice Guidance on Community Engagement for bus services**



**TRANSPORT  
SCOTLAND**  
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

Transport Scotland has published guidance on best practice in community engagement around bus services, following a short-life working group comprising community planning partners at a national level and a range of local and national bus operators. The document contains guidance for bus operators, Local Authorities and communities, with a particular focus on supporting those responsible for making decisions and encouraging community empowerment.

Community Planning Partnerships are mentioned specifically under 'Checklist 3: Planning' which includes:

- Agreeing focus, outcomes and indicators of success
- Agreeing realistic timetables
- Allocating sufficient resources
- Engaging community before decision-making on network changes
- Convening community partners and local stakeholders
- Considering how service information sharing could inform/improve community engagement

[Read the Best Practice Guidance on Community Engagement document](#)

## **Outcome 2: Housing**

### **Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency**

The Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency Summit was held on 27 November 2023, bringing partners together to forge commitments aimed at tackling the housing shortage by maximising resources, pursuing innovation, coordinating planning and targeting delivery capacity.

The Summit Outcomes Report, published in February, details the outcomes of Summit activity including the shortlisting and appraisal of housing emergency responses and the collective partnership pledge to act on each response. A subsequent appraisal exercise identified 34 priority actions under four key themes: delivering more market homes, delivering more homes for workers, delivering more affordable homes and making best use of existing homes, with an Action Programme currently being developed with a range of partners to take forward delivery of the priorities.

[More information about the Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency and link to the Summit Report](#)

### **Housing project for workers on Mull gets underway**

Infrastructure work started in mid-May in Tobermory for the creation of 12 new housing units for workers on Mull. Argyll and Bute Council secured £700,000 from the Scottish Government's Islands Programme to enable the project to get underway with a local contractor appointed to undertake the infrastructure work following a competitive tendering process.

The finished units will potentially be available for businesses to rent to staff and as temporary key worker accommodation while longer term accommodation is sought. The Council is working closely with Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) who commissioned a feasibility study in 2022 which highlighted 7% of the islands' workforce were living in unsuitable accommodation.



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## **Outcome 3: Community Wellbeing**

### **Have your say: Shaping the future Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has launched an online survey to consider changes to the emergency service in the future including addressing issues with an ageing estate, considering how, when and where resources are based and deployed, while ensuring the needs of changing community risks are met across Scotland.

The survey is entitled 'Shaping Our Future Service: Your Say' and marks the first stage in the engagement process between SFRS and local communities, staff, representative bodies, partners and elected members.

Views gathered during the survey will inform a series of change options to be considered as part of a full public consultation later in 2024.



[Find out more and take part in the SFRS Shaping Our Future Service survey](#)

**Closing Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

## **Public Health Scotland Learning Zone**

Expand your knowledge, skills and behaviours, and contribute to a Scotland where everybody thrives, by accessing a range of learning resources on the Public Health Scotland Learning Zone.

The portal contains a range of film clips, animations, face-to-face events, podcasts and more, enhancing your capability to tackle public health issues, and address health inequalities.



As time goes by, you will find new and engaging content, all designed to support your professional and personal growth.

Go to the [Public Health Scotland Learning Zone](#) to discover more.

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## **Ongoing Partnership work**

### **Climate Change**

#### **- Have your say: Draft Bioenergy Policy Statement**

Bioenergy can contribute to a more circular economy, both by converting waste into resources to create electricity and heat, and by displacing fossil fuels in transport systems and gas networks. This draft policy statement therefore has potential implications across all three priorities in the new Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Current bioenergy technologies require a secure and sustainable supply of suitable feedstock which may provide domestic market opportunities for communities in Argyll and Bute.

The consultation seeks views on the use of bioenergy, decarbonisation and carbon capture and storage options and the opportunities and challenges for growing energy crops sustainably.

[Draft Bioenergy Policy Statement: Consultation](#)

Closes on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

#### **- Have your say: Flood Resilience Strategy**

Scotland's climate is changing and one of the greatest challenges is the increasing impact flooding will have on our people, places and activities.

A warmer climate leads to higher amounts of winter rainfall and more intense periods of summer rainfall, together with sea level rises which increase exposure to coastal flooding events and erosion.

The Scottish Government is consulting on a Flood Resilience Strategy which is part of the National Adaptation Plan and will focus on how to make communities more resilient to increasing incidences of flooding.

[Flood Resilience Strategy: Consultation](#)

Closes on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024

## **Community Wealth Building**

### **- Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute: A Framework for Action**

In March 2023, the CPP approved the commissioning of a piece of work to map Community Wealth Building case studies within and outwith Argyll and Bute and to develop a set of recommendations for local action with the framework of the five pillars of CWB.

With input from stakeholders and individuals in the community and overseen by a steering group of community planning partners, the final report on Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute was received by the CPP Management Committee on 10th April 2024 and presented to the four Area Community Planning Groups in late April and early May 2024.

[Read the report - Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute: A Framework for Action](#)

### **- Models of Opportunity**

Through the citizen-led workshops conducted as part of the Community Wealth Building commission, two 'Models of Opportunity' have been identified which provide specific examples of how CWB could be implemented in Argyll and Bute.

The two models of opportunity are:

- Building greater employee ownership in Argyll and Bute
- Building community and shared ownership of the energy transition

[Read more about the Models of Opportunity](#)

## **Digital Inclusion**

### **- OFCOM mobile and broadband checker**

OFCOM's mobile and broadband checker allows people to find out the predicted mobile and broadband coverage for their location based on information from the four major mobile network providers and major broadband providers.

[OFCOM mobile and broadband checker dashboard](#)



### **- Digital switchover**



BT group has refined its switchover programme from the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to digital landlines, following the introduction of measures to better protect more vulnerable customers and those with additional requirements including telecare users.

It is anticipated that other Internet Service Providers will be taking a similar position.

[Read the BT article on its digital switchover programme](#)

## **Financial Inclusion**

### - **Help during the cost of living crisis**

The Scottish Government has put together a website which signposts available help to mitigate the cost of living crisis, this includes:

- Urgent help with food or fuel
- Help with debt and money
- Energy and household bills
- Benefits and income
- Children and families
- Health and wellbeing
- Older or disabled



Support for businesses is also signposted  
[Cost of living crisis website](#)

### - **UK Poverty 2024 report**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has published a report on the current poverty picture across the UK as a whole and for different demographics and geographies. Poverty has returned to close to pre-pandemic levels with children and working-age adults with children experiencing the highest rates of poverty. Minority ethnic groups and people with a disability also face high levels of poverty.



[Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK Poverty 2024 report](#)

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## **Community Planning Improvement Board**

### **Briefings**

The purpose of the Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) is to bring together and share evidence of what works well in community planning to influence policy, practice and reform of public services at local and national levels, and to support Community Planning Partnerships to deliver their statutory duties effectively and to make better and more informed decisions that improve the lives of local communities across Scotland.

A number of briefings have been created by the CPIB to explore the role and impact of community planning in addressing a range of topics.

[Read the CPIB briefing on Climate Change and Sustainability](#)

[Read the CPIB briefing on Tackling Inequalities](#)

[Read the CPIB briefing on CPP Progress and Potential](#)

[Read the CPIB briefing on Covid Recovery Strategy](#)



## Previous Items You May Have Missed

### Police Scotland- Right to Ask

You have the #RightToAsk

If you're concerned for your own safety, or someone else's, you can ask confidentially about a partner's history. Where we have information that a person may be at risk of harm of domestic abuse by their partner, we have the power to tell them.

Reporting domestic abuse could save a life.

[Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland](#)



### Transformation Programme Launches Leadership Practitioner Forum



A new Leadership Practitioner Forum is being launched as part of the current Improvement Service and Solace Scotland transformation work, looking at proposals for a future operating model for councils and options for the future delivery of council services.

The Forum will be a network for aspiring Chief Executives, Directors and Heads of Service, led and supported by the Improvement Service with current local authority Chief Executives. Members of the Leadership Practitioner Forum will attend a series of events that focus on [the anchors and associated workstreams of the transformation programme](#), bringing colleagues together to explore topics and challenges.

These events and the wider Forum will also provide an opportunity for members to contribute to the development of the six anchors and answer key questions about the direction of the transformation programme and how it can progress.

Getting involved with the Leadership Practitioner Forum is a great way to ensure that this radical transformation programme aligns with the priorities of your local council or Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

[Improvement Service - Leadership Practitioner Forum](#)

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### Investment Scams - Police Scotland Warnings

Police in Argyll and Bute have identified an increase in victims of fraud in our communities, who have been scammed through Investment Scams.

An investment scam is where you are convinced to move your money into a fictitious fund or pay for a fake investment which promised a high return.

People may be targeted by cold callers or presented with fake investment opportunities promoted on search engines and social media pressuring you to act quickly.



[Police Scotland information to help protect yourself and others from becoming victims of fraud](#)





## Argyll and Bute Council – Advice and Assistance in the Cost of Living Crisis

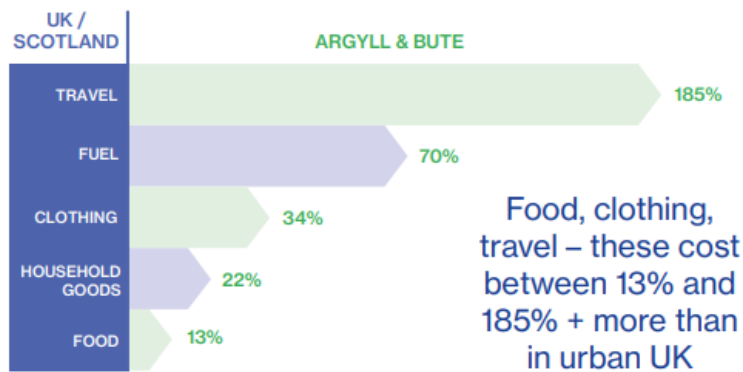


The council and partners are working to support people and businesses affected by the cost of living crisis in Argyll and Bute.

Please find here a summary of that work, the sources of help and advice that are available and please feel free to share this with third parties and other organisations.

### **DETAILS:**

Argyll and Bute's island, rural and mainland geography brings additional cost to our citizens' day to day lives (as highlighted in a report to Council on 29th September). For fuel costs alone this means that 70% of our households are at risk of fuel poverty or extreme fuel poverty; impact on additional key areas of living are outlined in the graphic below and at the end of this information note.



### **Working with partners to support people and businesses:**

The council's FIAG group (Financial Inclusion and Advice Group) brings together council services and support agencies. To make it as easy as possible for people to get support when they need it the council provides a 'one-stop-shop' of information on our website to provide key information and also help and information on money saving initiatives such as cheaper deals for internet connection and the availability of warm spaces provide by other organisations: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/advice-services](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/advice-services)

We summarise below some of the help available:

#### **Fuel**

FIAG brings together different sources of support specifically with fuel costs on our website: [Heat your home - managing rising costs \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). This includes information about warm spaces – (link may be slow to load) <https://www.argylltsi.org/warm-spaces/>

#### **Money**

Bute Advice Centre and Allenergy produced a [booklet highlighting financial support services available across Argyll and Bute](#). This includes for example maximising income, foodbanks, energy and budgeting advice. It has been widely circulated to Elected members, across the NHS, Schools, support agencies and is available on the [Bute Advice Centre website](#).

*Argyll and Bute Scotland Loves Local Gift Cards* The Council is rolling out an initiative to provide £120 gift cards to around 6,650 Council Tax Reduction recipients. This will support households on low incomes and the local businesses registered for the card.

*The Council is looking at a proposal to develop Welfare Rights & Health Partnerships in Argyll & Bute.* The pilot is looking at 5 practices within Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay where the Council would

embed Local Authority welfare advice specialists within the practice's healthcare setting for an average of one day per week per practice.

*Data mining to identify benefits eligibility and maximise household income* The Council's Data Advisory Group is working on matching data from relevant council systems to identify unmet benefit eligibility so we can support eligible households to maximize their income.

## **Food**

[Flexible Food Fund](#): The Fund provides a one-off cash payment to families on low incomes to help with food and fuel. The size of the payment is based on their household composition. Claimants are offered a second cash payment if they have engaged with support agencies, the Bute Advice Centre and ALI Energy, in financial management. The project achieved national acclaim in October 2021 for Excellence in Innovation from the Institute of Revenue Rating and Valuation. Over 96% of people receiving the first grant payment engage, get the support they need and get a second payment; applicants, through different routes, have received a total of £2 million they could otherwise have missed out on.

[Food banks](#): there is a list of food banks on the council's website

## **Clothing**

*Preloved School Clothing Project*. The Council and its schools are working with community groups to give every child in Argyll and Bute access to a school uniform, by developing a uniform re-use scheme. There is a reused school uniform hub in Helensburgh, one nearing completion in Campbeltown, and work in planning for schemes for Dunoon, Rothesay, Oban and Lochgilphead, Tarbert, Islay and Mull. [School uniform scheme information](#)

## **Support**

*Additional funding for advice agencies*. The Council has provided £40,000 in funding to ALI Energy, Bute Advice Centre and the Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau to help them meet increasing demands from the public between 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

*Anti-poverty training*. The Poverty Alliance has delivered training across the Council and Community Planning Partners on anti-poverty actions and this will be extended to elected members on 30 November.

## **Promoting information**

The Council's Communications Team is already using social media and also statements provided to local press in the area to reach groups and individuals who perhaps don't use social media to make people who need it, aware of support available, using for example digital and traditional media channels, and word of mouth, inviting the help of Councillors, council employees, partner agencies and the public in passing information on, via whatever channels they have, to people who need it.

Please use the information and links above and pass to those who need it.

Remember key information and links to other advice and assistance can be found at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/advice-services](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/advice-services)

[Heat your home - managing rising costs \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#).

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## **Funding Links**

### **Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Funding Information**

[TSI funding and grants](#)

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### **Funding for Communities**

[Funds to support communities at this time](#)

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### **Sign up to Funding Alert**

[Sign up to receive the Argyll and Bute Council monthly Funding Alert](#)

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### **GRANTnet – Funding Search Tool**

GRANTnet is a straightforward free to use service which can help you identify suitable funding for your activity or project across a wide range of funding sources.

#### **What is GRANTnet?**

- Up-to-date information on over 7,000 grants and other incentives,
- Rapid identification of funding sources specific to need,
- Data sourced from EC and UK Government sources, including Government departments, local authorities, charitable trusts and corporate sponsors.

#### **How to access GRANTnet**

[Access the GRANTnet home page](#)

When using the system for the first time, [go to the 'Log in / Register' page](#) and enter your details including your e-mail address (this will become the username), name, organisation, postal address and telephone number. Clicking on the 'Register' button will generate an e-mail providing a password.

**Using GRANTnet** - When you log into the system you must answer some questions about your organisation and the project which you wish to undertake. GRANTnet will then provide an overview of all the funds available.

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### **Funding help available for businesses**

[Funding to support businesses at this time](#)

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### **COVID-19 Advice from NHS Inform**

Covid-19 is still around – for the latest updated advice, [visit the NHS Inform website](#)



## **Other bulletins and newsletters that may be of interest**

### **Community Development Bulletin**

Circulated monthly and containing links to resources and information for people in communities, community groups and the third sector in Argyll and Bute.

Sign up here: [Note of Interest Form \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Cuairt-litir Gàidhlig Earra-Ghàidheal is Bhòid - Argyll and Bute Gaelic Newsletter**

Up to twelve issues per year, sharing and promoting Gaelic news, events and other opportunities for everyone in Argyll and Bute. Sign up here: [Note of Interest Form \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Monthly Funding Alert**

A wide range of current funding opportunities gathered from a range of sources and collated in a monthly bulletin highlighting deadlines and links for more details.

Sign up here: [Note of Interest Form \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Argyll and Bute Council Weekly News Round Up**

You can sign up to receive the [Argyll and Bute Weekly News Round Up](#), which is full of useful information, guidance, surveys and vacancies.

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## **Partner Websites**

[Argyll & Bute Council](#)

[Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership](#)

[Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface \(TSI\)](#)

[Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust \(ACT\)](#)

[Bòrd Na Gàidhlig](#)

[Department for Work and Pensions \(DWP\)](#)

[Highlands and Islands Enterprise](#)

[Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership \(HITRANS\)](#)

[Historic Environment Scotland](#)

[LiveArgyll](#)

[Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park](#)

[Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament \(MSYPs\)](#)

[NatureScot](#)

[NHS Highland](#)

[Police Scotland](#)

[Scottish Ambulance Service](#)

[Scottish Enterprise](#)

[Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)

[Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

[Skills Development Scotland \(SDS\)](#)

[sportscotland](#)

[Strathclyde Partnership for Transport \(SPT\)](#)

[UHI Argyll](#)

[visitscotland](#)