

Development and Economic Growth (2020-2023)

The principal purpose of the Service is to:

Support our communities to realise their full potential by enhancing access to housing, supporting businesses, protecting the public and improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area. This is done by ensuring that new development and the monitoring of business activities takes place in a sustainable manner where economic opportunities are harnessed for all communities throughout Argyll and Bute.

The Service focus is on delivering critical economic infrastructure to connect to national and international markets, sustaining existing businesses, attracting new residents, visitors and investment, creating places where people want to live and improving people's skills for work.

The Service is leading on the delivery of the £50 million Rural Growth Deal. The aim of which is that the Council and its partners will deliver success across Argyll and Bute, based on three key economic drivers:

- Attracting: additional skills, training and learning opportunities; new residents, visitors and businesses.
- Growing: doing more of what works; making more of our natural and built resources.
- Connecting: our high value business sectors with national and international business markets; our local economic successes with national strategic priorities.

The Service employs 174 FTE

The Service faces the following significant challenges:

The need to attract sufficient external funding to Argyll and Bute to enable a regulatory system and fund economic based initiatives to help achieve sustainable economic growth and address our population challenges.

Delivering a transformational Heads of Terms agreement for our £50m Rural Growth Deal that recognises key strategic priorities and the scale of external investment required.

Leaving the EU will bring an end to European structural funding programmes such as LEADER, ERDF and EMF. This will have an impact on what our staff do and have a negative impact on our communities if this is not replaced with UK Structural funds.

Ensuring we can improve our local skills and education offer to help train, retain and attract a skilled workforce to take advantage of our key economic opportunities and challenges.

There is a continuing difficulty with attracting external capital investment into Argyll and Bute for economic infrastructure and area regeneration as a result of a reduction of the Council's capital budget.

To work with local communities to help deliver their own economic future through the delivery of individual projects.

Attracting sufficient funding from the Scottish Government to deliver the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) targets for affordable housing.

Across Planning and Regulatory Services, to ensure that service priorities for environmental health, animal health and welfare, and licensing standards are aligned with available resources and meet statutory duties.

Ensuring medium to longer term financial planning supports Council priorities in a sustainable manner – addressing potential shortfalls in planning fee income.

To meet the increased demands on the food export market in light of EU Exit.

To deliver our workforce planning strategy to ensure that we are able to meet our current and emerging statutory duties across Planning, Building Standards and Regulatory Services.

The difference the Service makes:

The Service contributes to the following Business Outcomes:

BO102	We provide support, prevention and opportunities to help people make better lifestyle choices	£4,279
BO103	We enable a choice of suitable housing options	£2,513,721
BO104	Our communities are protected and supported	£1,167,436
BO105	Our natural and built environment is protected and respected	-£142,867
BO110	We support businesses, employment and development opportunities	£1,855,038
BO111	We influence and engage with businesses and policy makers	£254,476
BO112	Argyll and Bute is promoted to everyone	£258,375
BO113	Our infrastructure is safe and fit for the future	£1,493,814
	Central Management Costs	£511,926
		£7,916,198

Development and Economic Growth (2020-2023): Service Improvements

SI Code	Improvement Action	Completion date	Source of improvement	Source detail
BO104	Our communities are protected and supported			
DEG104_01i	To complete the Food Control Improvement Plan and the Action Plan developed following the external audit by Food Standards Scotland (FSS).	FQ1 2020/21	Audit or inspection key recommendation	Food Control Improvement Plan agreed by Committee in September 2016 and FSS audit report.

SI Code	Improvement Action	Completion date	Source of improvement	Source detail
BO105	Our natural and built environment is protected and respected			
DEG105_01i	Replace CIVICA with the Idox document management system.	FQ4 2020/21	Employee suggestion	This improvement seeks to ensure a faster and more customer focused on site service delivery.

SI Code	Improvement Action	Completion date	Source of improvement	Source detail
BO115	We are efficient and cost effective			
DEG115_01i	Develop a project evaluation procedure to capture our lessons learned and use the knowledge to help inform future projects and service delivery and investment opportunities.	FQ4 2020/21	Other	Economic profiles and committee papers.
DEG115_02i	Fully digitalise all document and evidence exchanges for LDP2 Examination in Public.	FQ4 2020/21	Employee suggestion	Previous successful partial digital transfer at the previous Examination and encouragement by the Scottish Government.
DEG115_03i	Review current performance measures and identify appropriate outcomes with targets across Regulatory Services.	FQ4 2020/21	Self-evaluation	Association of Public Services and Excellence Performance Network.

Development and Economic Growth (2020-2023): Success Measures

	SM Code	Success measures	Target	Timescale	Benchmark
BO102		We provide support, prevention and opportunities to help people make better lifestyle choices			
	DEG102_01	Protecting health of our people through the delivery of the formally approved Joint Health Protection Plan. (18-20 plan)	90%	FQ4 2020/21	No benchmark
To monitor progress against the plan, to target our own and, multiagency work with partners, and to take corrective actions where appropriate.					

SM Code	Success measures	Target	Timescale	Benchmark
BO103	We enable a choice of suitable housing options			
DEG103_01	Number of new affordable homes completed per annum.	75	FQ4 Annually	Strategic Housing Investment Plan: 75 per annum
We aim to have a good supply of affordable housing across the area. This will help keep people in the area and attract inward migration. This is a core requirement of the Local Housing Strategy and Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP).				
DEG103_02	The percentage of positive homeless prevention interventions (prevent 1).	50%	Quarterly	Local Housing Strategy: 50%
We personalise preventative measures to help people access a housing option that meets their needs. This statutory measure recognises the importance to prevent homelessness.				
DEG103_03	The number of empty properties brought back in to use per annum.	25 per annum	FQ4 Annually	Local Housing Strategy: 25 per annum
We want to reduce homelessness, improve affordability and help prevent dereliction. We aim to do this by improving the housing supply.				

SM Code	Success measures	Target	Timescale	Benchmark
BO104	Our communities are protected and supported			
DEG104_01	Maintain the percentage of broadly compliant food businesses as a result of our enforcement interventions.	85%	Quarterly	National benchmark: 87%
To protect the public we assess how compliant a food business is with recognised hygiene standards. 'Broadly' compliant is the middle compliant level.				
DEG104_02	The percentage of public health service requests that are resolved within 20 working days.	80%	Quarterly	Previous year performance: 86%
We work quickly to protect public health or nuisance conditions that impact on health and wellbeing. Any justified corrective action is taken quickly. This measure is also reported to the national performance network.				
DEG104_03	Undertake an enforcement intervention programme to high risk premises in respect of environmental health, animal health and welfare and licensing standards.	95%	Quarterly	Internal benchmark: 95%
High risk premises and activities with the area are proportionally targeted. If any issues are identified, then corrective action takes place.				

SM Code	Success measures	Target	Timescale	Benchmark
BO105	Our natural and built environment is protected and respected			
DEG105_01	Respond to Building Warrant applications within 20 days.	80%	Quarterly	Previous quarter performance: FQ1 2019/20: 99.0%
Providing a prompt service helps support the local economy. This national target allows us to benchmark our performance.				
DEG105_02	Respond to Completion Certificate applications within 10 days.	80%	Quarterly	Previous quarter performance: FQ1 2019/20: 2.1 days
Providing a prompt service helps support the local economy. This national target allows us to benchmark our performance.				
DEG105_03	Retain our customer service excellence award status for Building Standards and Planning and Regulatory Services.	Awarded	Annually	No benchmark
This demonstrates our customer-focused service delivery and is in line with the Council's objective.				
DEG105_04	Market the Building Standards service commercially to become self-funding and to assist with budget reconciliation.	£100k annually profiled quarterly	Quarterly	No benchmark
Additional income stream assisting Building Standards to become self-funding. Also assists with junior staff development.				

SM Code	Success measures	Target	Timescale	Benchmark
BO110	We support businesses, employment and development opportunities			
DEG110_01	Increase visitor numbers by working in partnership with the tourism industry.	1.5% on previous calendar year	FQ2 2020/21 FQ4 2020/21	STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics): 2.799m visitors
Tourism is a key sector for Argyll & Bute both in terms of securing and retaining a skilled workforce and with Argyll & Bute being a world-class destination. The Economic Strategy aims to increase visitor numbers by 15% by 2030.				
DEG110_02	The 12 month survival rate of new small and medium sized businesses.	77%	Quarterly	2018/19: 85%
We support new small and medium sized business start-ups during the difficult first 12 months by offering free, impartial and confidential advice. This is a key driver to growing our economy.				
DEG110_03	The number of new business start-ups supported.	100 per annum	FQ4 2020/21	2018/19: 116
Topical or legislative workshops and/or advisory support is offered to new business start-ups. The advice given is free, impartial and confidential. This is a key driver to growing our economy.				
DEG110_04	Complete the LEADER programme and produce an evaluation report.	Complete	Quarterly FQ3 2020/21	No benchmark
Once the LEADER programme is completed an evaluation report highlighting the benefits of the programme will be produced.				
DEG110_05	The above national average level of planning application approval rates is maintained.	Above 95%	Quarterly	2018/19 Scottish National Average: 93.7%
We commit resource at an early stage in the planning process to improve/negotiate any substandard submissions. The high approval rate indicates the Council's commitment to delivery positive outcomes.				
DEG110_06	The time it takes to determine 'local' planning applications is no longer than 10% above the National Average.	10 weeks	Quarterly	2018/19 Scottish National Average: 9 weeks
This indicates the efficiency of the Council's planning process. Prompt planning application decisions is a driver to support and help grow the local economy.				

SM Code	Success measures	Target	Timescale	Benchmark
DEG110_07	Increase the proportion of planning applications that are right first time.	2020/21: 40% 2021/22: 50% 2022/23: 60%	Annually	Large Rural Authorities (PPF publications): TBC

The number of planning applications that are submitted right first time will reduce both applicant and Council costs. This in turn will support and help grow the local economy.

DEG110_08	Maintain a Local Development Plan that is less than 5 years old.	On track	Quarterly	No benchmark
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An up to date LDP is essential to ensure that the appropriate supply of land for homes and economic development is in the right areas. Correct future development is crucial for underpinning investment and funding activity. It is also a key indicator of planning performance.

SM Code	Success measures	Target	Timescale	Benchmark
BO111	We influence and engage with businesses and policy makers			
DEG111_01	An enforcement intervention is performed in a consistent and fair manner with businesses fully supported throughout.	80% measured by customer survey responses	FQ2 2020/21 FQ4 2020/21	Previous year survey results: TBC

This is a requirement of the Scottish Government's Regulators Strategic Code. We seek feedback from our customers on a range of issues including fairness and officer behaviours. This is also essential evidence for the Customer Services Excellence award.

SM Code	Success measures	Target	Timescale	Benchmark
BO112	Argyll and Bute is promoted to everyone			
DEG112_01	Deliver the Dunoon CARS (Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme) project. Percentage of project delivery to date Total spend to date	60% delivery complete £s TBC	Quarterly	No benchmark
This strategic development project is delivering Stronger Places. It focuses on delivering physical improvements and creating an outstanding built environment and a sense of place.				
DEG112_02	Deliver the Rothesay TH (Townscape Heritage) project. Percentage of project delivery to date Total spend to date	60% delivery complete £s TBC	Quarterly	No benchmark
This strategic development project is delivering Stronger Places. It focuses on delivering physical improvements and creating an outstanding built environment and a sense of place.				
DEG112_03	Deliver the Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund project. Percentage of project delivery to date Total spend to date	70% delivery complete £s TBC	Quarterly	No benchmark
This strategic development project is delivering Stronger Places. It focuses on delivering physical improvements and creating an outstanding built environment and a sense of place.				
DEG112_04	Deliver the Lochgilphead CARS (Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme) project. Percentage of project delivery to date Spend to date	10% delivery complete £s TBC	Quarterly	No benchmark
This strategic development project is delivering Stronger Places. It focuses on delivering physical improvements and creating an outstanding built environment and a sense of place.				

	SM Code	Success measures	Target	Timescale	Benchmark
BO113		Our infrastructure is safe and fit for the future			
	DEG113_01	Maintain the total number of landings at Oban airport per annum.	1,817	Quarterly	Previous year performance: 1,817

A viable airport is vital for services to our islands as well as supporting our economic and tourist sectors and providing employment opportunities.
