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24 April 2024*

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

A meeting of the **MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP** will be held **ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, IONAD CHALUIM CHILLE ILE (ISLAY GAELIC CENTRE), ISLAY AND BY MICROSOFT TEAMS** on **WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY 2024 at 10:30 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry  
Executive Director

## **BUSINESS**

- 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. MINUTE OF THE MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2024**  
(Pages 5 - 18)
- 4. CLIMATE CHANGE**
  - (a) ACT Now (Pages 19 - 28)  
  
Presentation by Project Manager – ACT Now, Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust
- 5. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**  
(Pages 29 - 32)  
Report by Committee Manager, Argyll & Bute Council
- 6. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY COUNCIL INTERIM BY-ELECTIONS** (Pages 33 - 34)  
Report by Governance Officer, Argyll & Bute Council

**7. COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING IN ARGYLL AND BUTE - A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION** (Pages 35 - 86)

Report by Chief Executive Officer, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface

**8. ARGYLL AND BUTE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP - PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE: 'THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH: MEDICATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH - DO THE RIGHT THING'** (Pages 87 - 88)

Report by Health Improvement Senior, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership

**9. MOVING ON MID ARGYLL - A FOOD SHARE OPERATION FOR MID ARGYLL** (Pages 89 - 90)

Report by Trustee, Moving on Mid Argyll (MOMA)

**10. COMMUNITY FOCUS**

- (a) Sidekick - Inclusive Islay and Jura

Presentation by Sidekick – Inclusive Islay and Jura

**11. PARTNER UPDATES**

- (a) Police Scotland Update (Pages 91 - 98)
- (b) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Update (Pages 99 - 104)
- (c) Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Update (Pages 105 - 110)
- (d) Campbeltown Community Council Update (Pages 111 - 112)
- (e) Forestry and Land Scotland Update (Pages 113 - 114)
- (f) Live Argyll Community Learning Service - Adult Learning Update (Pages 115 - 120)
- (g) Live Argyll Community Learning Service - Youth Learning Update (Pages 121 - 124)
- (h) Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament Update (Pages 125 - 126)
- (i) South Islay Development Update (Pages 127 - 130)
- (j) Caledonian MacBrayne Update (Pages 131 - 132)
- (k) Opportunity for Verbal Updates

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Contact: Iona Campbell, Senior Committee Assistant; Tel: 01436 658 801

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**MINUTES of MEETING of MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP held ON A HYBRID BASIS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS AND IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD on WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2024**

**Present:** Councillor John Armour, Argyll and Bute Council (Chair)  
 Ian Brodie, East Kintyre Community Council  
 Councillor Dougie McFadzean, Argyll and Bute Council  
 Melissa Stewart, Governance Officer, Argyll and Bute Council  
 Iona Campbell, Senior Committee Assistant, Argyll and Bute Council  
 Antonia Baird, Community Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council  
 Stuart Green, Corporate Support Manager, Argyll and Bute Council  
 Mary Holt, Community Justice Co-Ordinator, Argyll and Bute Council  
 Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland  
 Station Commander Darren Gibb, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
 Jeni West, Forestry and Land Scotland  
 May Cross, Department for Work and Pensions  
 Jamie Titterton, Community Learning Worker, Live Argyll  
 Adelle McGeachy, Kintyre Youth Action Group  
 Dahlia Techner, Kintyre Youth Action Group  
 Jennifer Dryden, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership  
 Olena Mishanina, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership  
 Clare Hay, Colonsay Community Council  
 Sarah Campbell, Argyll Community Housing Association  
 PS Matthew Shaw, Police Scotland  
 Muriel MacKaveney, CHARTS Argyll & Isles  
 Malcolm Sinclair, Lochgilphead Community Council  
 Chris Abell, Islay Community Council  
 Sandy Taylor, Islay Community Council  
 Jen Broadhurst, Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau

**Attending:** Leah McGuigan, InspirAlba  
 Eryne Barr, InspirAlba  
 David Gould, Includem  
 MSYP Alasdair Paisley, Scottish Youth Parliament  
 Andrew Galloway, Local Democracy Reporter

## **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and general introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:-

Councillor Jan Brown, Argyll & Bute Council  
 Lauren Worrell, National Farmers Union Scotland  
 Fergus Murray, Argyll and Bute Council  
 Caitlin Quinn, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks  
 Anthony McGloin, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
 Iona MacPhail, Fyne Homes  
 Sharyn Lock, Kintyre Climate Action

Jane Cowen, Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust  
Valerie Nimmo, Campbeltown Community Council  
Susan MacRae, Skills Development Scotland  
Martha Smart, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks  
Petra Pearce, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface  
PC Laura Evans, Police Scotland  
Samantha Somers, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership  
Margaret Wallace, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface  
Heather Thomas-Smith, Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (Wild About Argyll)

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**3. MINUTE OF THE MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2023**

The Minutes of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group meeting held on 1 November 2023 were approved as a correct record.

**4. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The group gave consideration to a report which outlined matters discussed during a meeting of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee held on 12 January 2024. The report provided a summary of a presentation in relation to the Council's Area Plans, as well as information on matters arising from previous Area Community Planning Group meetings across Argyll and Bute. The report also included updates on a number of cross cutting themes such as Climate Change; Financial Inclusion; Digital Communities; the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan (ABOIP) for 2024-34; and Community Wealth Building.

**Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 31 January 2024, submitted)

**5. ARGYLL COMMUNITY HOUSING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL UPDATE**

Consideration was given to an annual report from Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), which provided information in relation to their stock in the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area; ongoing Regeneration and Investment programmes; the Warm Homes Fund project; the Business Energy Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Whole House Retrofit Programme; the ongoing replacement of inefficient heating systems to be replaced with air source heat pump systems; ongoing improvement works at Duncholgan travelling persons site; a review of ACHA's sheltered housing services; continuing work on property allocation and reletting; works planned for the Exemplar Estates initiative; opportunities for communities to engage with planned Estate Walkabouts; an ongoing consultation on ACHA's Customer Involvement Strategy; welfare rights services; adaptations for

vulnerable customers; success at the Scotland Housing Awards, Scottish Energy Efficiency Awards, and Tenant Advisory Service National Excellence Awards; awards for local schools as part of ACHA's 10 10 10 initiative; and the results of feedback from customer satisfaction surveys. The report also encouraged applications to ACHA's Community Action Fund, and noted that a number of awards from the Fund had already benefitted local groups.

The Local Manager agreed to provide statistics in relation to housing waiting lists, including area breakdowns, to the Senior Committee Assistant or Governance Officer following the meeting for circulation to the Group.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Local Manager, Argyll Community Housing Association, submitted)

## **6. PARTNER UPDATES**

### **(a) Transport Scotland Update**

The Group considered a verbal update from Transport Scotland's North West Area Manager. Information was provided in relation to upcoming works across the area, including drainage repairs at the Rest and Be Thankful; resurfacing projects in February and March in Arrochar, North of Ballochroy, West of Craigs and North of Artilligan; and the felling of diseased trees in the vicinity of Inveraray throughout March.

The North West Area Manager also provided an update in relation to discussions between Transport Scotland, Bear Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council in relation to the proposed active travel and drainage project in Kinloch Road, Campbeltown. It was noted that this project was approaching a public consultation phase, and it was hoped that work would begin on site during the 2024-25 financial year.

An update was also provided in relation to continuing works on the Hall Street footway and the potential need for an alternative surface for the footway to avoid algae and moss growth. It was noted that an additional area of the Hall Street footway had also been added to the programme for attention. The Chair agreed to discuss this following the meeting with the North West Area Manager.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

### **(b) Police Scotland Update**

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the recent work and activities of Police Scotland within the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area. The report included information on fraud prevention and a recent increase in parcel delivery scams; engagement with the community, local schools, and the Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service; success at the Divisional Recognition Awards 2023 for

Sheena McLean, Argyll and Bute Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Co-Ordinator, as the runner up for the Partnership Award; support for the 16 Days Against Gender Based Violence Campaign; and proactive campaigns to prevent drink and drug driving offences.

The report also included an invite to partners to liaise with Police Scotland in relation to the delivery of fraud prevention measures and awareness sessions, particularly where this may be of benefit to vulnerable people.

PS Shaw highlighted the commissioning of a new format for Community Council reports. He also advised that he was aware of an increase in youth-related disorder in the Lochgilphead area and provided details of methods which were being employed to address this.

The Community Justice Co-Ordinator advised that she would contact PS Shaw following the meeting in relation to work around the prevention of domestic violence.

Discussion took place around limited staff resource on Islay, and it was agreed that representatives from Islay Community Council would liaise directly with PS Shaw following the meeting in relation to this and concerns about drink driving which had been highlighted through the Community Council's local consultations.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Police Scotland, submitted)

### **(c) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Update**

The group gave consideration to a report which highlighted the performance and activity of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service within the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area during financial quarter 3 of 2023/24. The report included information on the local firefighter training plan; local incident statistics; unwanted fire alarm signals; road and water safety campaigns; community engagement activities; East and West Dunbartonshire Argyll and Bute Local Senior Officer activities and home fire safety.

Station Commander Gibb also provided information in relation to the British Heart Foundation's application process for the supply and maintenance of defibrillators. He noted that applications were now open, and encouraged local community groups to apply. A link with information in relation to the application process is provided below:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/apply-for-a-free-defibrillator-for-your-community>

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.



(Reference: Report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, submitted)

(d) **Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership - Analogue to Digital Switchover and Telecare Update**

Consideration was given to a report which provided information in relation to the upcoming switchover of telephone lines from analogue to digital, and the measures being put in place by the Telecare team to ensure a smooth transition for their clients. Suggestions on how partners could support this work were provided.

The Chair enquired about the safeguarding of those with Telecare during a power cut. It was agreed that clarification around this would be sought from the TEC Lead following the meeting, and a response circulated to the Group.

**Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by TEC Lead, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, submitted)

(e) **Live Argyll Community Learning Team - Kintyre Youth Work Update**

Consideration was given to an update report from the Live Argyll Community Learning Team, which provided an update on Youth Work in Kintyre. The update provided information in relation to the work of the Kintyre Youth Action Group; the success of the second Campbeltown Grammar School – Learning Support Employability Group programme; partnership working on the Friday Night ‘Street Sports’ Project to assist young people transitioning from primary school to Campbeltown Grammar School; a new Kintyre Youth Filmmaking Project; and support for Alasdair Paisley, a new Kintyre-based Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP). The update also provided information on regular projects, as well as scheduled future projects.

The Chair welcomed Adelle McGeachy and Dahlia Techner, who were in attendance to provide a verbal update on Kintyre Youth Action Group’s recent and ongoing activities, as follows:

“Since the last meeting we have been involved in a few different activities. Including doing some fundraising for our next group trip to Glasgow by holding a coffee morning and raffle. We have also been engaging with Argyll and Bute Women’s Aid to help them spread the word about their work and help them find ways to better engage young people across the authority.

Just before Christmas we completed a loneliness project where we visited elderly people who live in care homes in Campbeltown and Tarbert. We spoke to the residents and put on activities for them, including playing boccia, bingo, arts and crafts, and telling them jokes. This was a lot of fun and helped to brighten the residents day.

After Christmas we then helped to support the Community Learning Team during

their HMI inspection visit. We are now getting ready for the new year by planning our upcoming Easter GIVE youth volunteering programme, summer exchange programme, Big Day Out, and some of us are also planning to climb Ben Nevis to raise further funds for the Action Group.

As mentioned last time, in the Spring we will be running a Skateboarding project at Campbeltown Skatepark. We hope that part of the project can include installing a clean box so that young people who use it can safely remove glass and other rubbish safely, as this is currently an issue at the park. This would be a permanent fixture which would contain materials such as gloves, litter pickers, dustpans and brushes etc. A huge thank you to the Grab Trust for offering equipment to put in the clean box. If anyone is able to help with supplying a suitable box for this or pointing us in the right direction of who could, please let us know. We would very much appreciate it.”

The Chair welcomed MSYP Alasdair Paisley, who introduced himself to the Group. MSYP Paisley advised that he was looking forward to starting his work as an MSYP and looked forward to engaging with the Group.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Live Argyll Community Learning Team, submitted)

#### **(f) Live Argyll Community Learning Team - Adult Learning Update**

Consideration was given to an update report from the Live Argyll Community Learning Team, which provided an update on Adult Learning. The update included information in relation to different workstreams, including Core Skills for Life Learning and Work; Health and Wellbeing; Digital Skills; and Your Voice. The update particularly highlighted work taking place in the Mid Argyll Adult Learning Hub, and with the Lochside Enterprise Group; Let's Grow Group; and the MS Argyll – Snowdrop Give Back Group.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Live Argyll Community Learning Team, submitted)

#### **(g) Forestry and Land Scotland Update**

The group gave consideration to a report which highlighted the ongoing workstreams of Forestry and Land Scotland within the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area. Information was included in relation to Land Management Plans at South Knapdale and East Loch Awe; the continuing spread of the Larch-Phytophthora Ramorum disease in the area and efforts being made to combat this; the ongoing peatland restoration programme; upcoming complex operations; engagement with Lochgilphead High School careers fair; a project to map private water supplies across the West region; the release of four beavers in Knapdale

Forest in December 2023; ongoing invasive species removal operations; and works around potential impacts of a Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) substation on the forest road near Achnabreac.

It was noted that reports of any issues to be reported to Forestry and Land Scotland could be directed to [enquiries.west@forestryandland.gov.scot](mailto:enquiries.west@forestryandland.gov.scot) to allow the team to record, prioritise and allocate work as required.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Forestry and Land Scotland, submitted)

#### **(h) Tarbert & Skipness Community Trust Update**

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the appointment of two new Directors of Tarbert & Skipness Community Trust; the planned development of 30 new properties as part of the Strategic Housing Improvement Plan; and increased community benefit fund criteria and potential funding grant projects.

The Chair highlighted significant concerns in relation to an accident blackspot at Tarbert water treatment works, following a number of incidents.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust, submitted)

#### **(i) Campbeltown Community Council Update**

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on funding and works for the Trench Point Path; a local public meeting on the Democracy Matters consultation; progress in relation to a new Campbeltown pharmacy; and ongoing concerns about the condition of the road surface at the Esplanade.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Campbeltown Community Council, submitted)

#### **(j) Opportunity for Verbal Updates**

Muriel MacKaveney, Culture Heritage and Arts (CHArts) Argyll and Isles

Muriel advised that a lot of information in relation to CHArts recent and ongoing work could be found on the CHArts website, and a written update would be provided for

the Group to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.

Information was provided in relation to the CHArts showcase projects and the 'Touring St Columba' cultural exchange with Ireland, including information about the places across Argyll and Bute that the exhibition would be featured.

Work in relation to the 'Remembering Together – Reflect' project was also highlighted, with it being noted that the wider community and a number of local community groups were being engaged with to co-create a piece of work for display in the memorial garden at Campbeltown Museum. It was noted that work would also include a photography exhibition and workshops, and the project will link in to people's memories and experiences of the pandemic.

### Jen Broadhurst, Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau

Jen Broadhurst confirmed that a copy of the update from Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau would be provided to the Group for circulation with the minutes of the meeting.

Information was provided in relation to a significant increase in the number of clients seeking assistance with food and fuel poverty; a recruitment campaign for volunteer advisers; the provision of Energy Efficiency Advice Sessions; the findings of the Argyll & Bute Housing Emergency Summit; work with Council colleagues around a potential reduction in local rental properties; and work around council tax debt with the Council, including a 3 month moratorium for anyone who is seeking assistance from the Bureau. An overview was also provided in relation to the other services being delivered by the Bureau.

Jen encouraged partners to signpost any individuals who may need assistance to the Bureau, and also welcomed any partner input to the Bureau's development plan.

### Antonia Baird, Community Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council

The Community Development Officer advised that community groups could apply for up to £2.5k of funding through the Supporting Communities Fund, which would be open for applications between 5<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> March. It was noted that community groups could seek assistance from Antonia Baird, Margaret Wallace or Petra Pearce to ensure that applications were of the highest possible standard.

The Community Development Officer confirmed that the marketing strategy for the Fund includes liaising with Community Councils and issuing posters to be placed in physical locations, including Carradale Hall.

### **(k) Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Update**

Consideration was given to an update from Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface (TSI), which provided an update on their recent work. The update included information in relation to funding grants from the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund 2023-24; the commissioning of a Community Wealth Building strategy and action plan as part of the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership; funding available from the Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network Fund; future consultation and development of a TSI Strategy for 2024-29; the launch

of the new TSI website on 20th February; and work with the SCVO on a fairer funding campaign.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface, submitted)

## **7. ARGYLL AND BUTE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP - PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **(a) Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership - Public Health Update**

Consideration was given to a public health update from Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's Public Health Team on the ongoing wellbeing and prevention activities overseen and delivered by them in Argyll and Bute. The update provided information on the Argyll and Bute Public Health Annual Report; the development of children and young people's health and wellbeing profiles; ongoing health and wellbeing profile workshops; the Cool2Talk online support service for young people; and the annual Director of Public Health Report, which will be presented at the next cycle of the Area Community Planning Groups.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Health Improvement Lead, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, submitted)

### **(b) Presentation on Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Profiles**

The Group gave consideration to a presentation by Jennifer Dryden, Health Improvement Lead from Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's Public Health Team, on the Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Profile for the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area. The presentation provided information in relation to the Profile themes; the purposes of the Profiles; the layout of the report and how to navigate it; the reasons for any gaps in the Profiles; and the type of data in the Profiles and ways in which this could be used by partners.

Sandy Taylor, Islay Community Council, asked if data was available in relation to neurodiversity within children and young people in the area. The Health Improvement Lead advised that she would request any data available in relation to this and circulate it to the Group.

The Health Improvement Lead advised that any questions in relation to the Profiles could be directed to [nhsh.publichealthintelligence@nhs.scot](mailto:nhsh.publichealthintelligence@nhs.scot) .

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered

and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation by Public Health Team, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, tabled)

## 8. COMMUNITY FOCUS

### (a) **InspirAlba - Household Resilience**

Consideration was given to a report and presentation by Leah McGuigan and Eryne Barr from InspirAlba, in relation to the Household Resilience project's delivery of support for those affected by fuel and food poverty. The presentation provided an overview of the project's background and the team involved. The report and presentation also highlighted the work of partner organisations including Kintyre Food Bank, Bute Advice, ALI Energy, Home Energy Scotland, and Kintyre Recycling.

Leah and Eryne provided information in relation to the ways in which the Project could assist people to access support, including assistance with application forms and monitoring the outcomes of applications; signposting to relevant organisations; and the delivery of food parcels for those who may be unable to access them. It was noted that the Project had assisted over 500 households to date, as well as 73 households supported through the School Uniform Project.

Information was provided in relation to the issues clients were facing, and case studies showcasing the success of the Project were presented. Leah provided information in relation to the next steps for the Project, and invited any organisations who may be willing to take on a funded Advocate post for the Project to get in touch with her following the meeting.

Discussions took place in relation to the Project receiving four years of funding; the marketing of the Project; future training with South Islay Development to provide support for Islay, Jura and Colonsay; dissemination of information about the project to local Community Councils; and potential collaborative working with Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Community Development Officer agreed to provide Leah with details of organisations who may be able to take on an Advocate in the Mid Argyll area following the meeting.

The Chair thanked Leah and Eryne for attending and congratulated them on the Project's success. He invited them to provide an annual update on the Project to a future meeting of the Group.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Project Co-ordinator, InspirAlba, submitted and Presentation by Project Co-ordinator, InspirAlba, tabled)

**9. CLIMATE CHANGE**

(a) **Addressing the Climate Emergency in Argyll and Bute: Argyll and Bute Climate Action**

The Group considered a report from the Climate Change Project Manager, which provided an update on the Community Planning Partnership's Argyll and Bute Climate Action project. The update included information in relation to the background and work of the Climate Change Working Group; funding requirements to support the implementation of a Climate Change Project Manager post; an overview of the work of the Climate Change Project Manager to date and future plans; collaboration with the Argyll & Bute Climate Action Network Hub; and updated governance arrangements for the Climate Change Working Group.

**Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the approach and status of the project, as outlined in the report.

(Reference: Report by Climate Change Project Manager, ACT Now, dated 31 January 2024, submitted)

(b) **Climate Action Team Update**

Consideration was given to an update from Kintyre Climate Action Team, which provided information on the work of the Project, which is scheduled to conclude at the end of February 2024. Highlights included the co-ordination of local events for Scottish Climate Week; the initiation of an Atlantic Rainforest Education Project, culminating in the anticipated launch of the Kintyre Rainforest Alliance; the production of a Campbeltown 'green map'; the imminent launch of the 'Campbeltown EcoCup'; the launch of the Campbeltown Climate Action Film Festival; assistance in obtaining funding for a local zero-waste business; assistance with running a school workshop in conjunction with Climate Action Towns; the success and ongoing development of the Kintyre Grows project; and various methods used to distribute and share ideas and information.

It was noted that a celebratory Climate Action Activities Day would be held on 24th February, and funding was still being sought to assist in the continuation of the Kintyre Grows project.

The Chair congratulated Kintyre Climate Action Team on behalf of the Group for their work.

**Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Kintyre Climate Action Team, submitted)

**10. MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP GOVERNANCE**

The group gave consideration to a report which outlined the governance arrangements of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group (Area CPG) specifically the Terms of Reference, membership and future meeting dates.

It was agreed that the Governance Manager and Senior Committee Assistant would approach Scottish Canals about becoming a Member of the Group following the meeting.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and adopted the Terms of Reference at Appendix 1 of the report and agreed that these be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure their ongoing currency and appropriateness for the work of the Area CPG as it develops over time;
2. considered and agreed the Membership of the group at Appendix 2 of the report, subject to the inclusion of Kintyre Youth Action Group and Argyll and Bute Council's Community Justice Team, and agreed that this would be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency and appropriateness for the work of the group as it develops over time; and
3. noted the future meeting dates submitted within the report.

(Reference: Report by Governance Officer, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 31 January 2024, submitted)

## **11. AREA PLANS UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a presentation by the Corporate Support Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, in relation to the Council's Area Plans. The presentation provided background information in relation to the Plans, as well as details of the 8 Locality Plans across Argyll and Bute, and the purpose and principles of the Plans. The presentation also included context about the scope of the Plans; the importance of community engagement and efficient use of resources in the development of the plans; the overall approach, governance and phasing of the Plan's development; and the ways in which information from the development of the Plans would be utilised.

The Corporate Support Manager noted that it was hoped that the Area Plans would maximise the opportunities for funding for local projects. It was anticipated that the Plans would be developed and owned by the communities, and the Area Community Planning Groups would have an important part to play in the development of the Plans. He emphasised that the Plans were not seeking to take ownership of projects away from local community groups.

The presentation provided details of how partners could assist with the Area Plans by identifying community groups in the area; identifying physical locations suitable for hosting consultation documents; and encouraging community partners to engage with the development process. The Corporate Support Manager advised that he would provide a list of currently identified community groups for circulation to the Group following the meeting, in order to reduce duplication in identifying any additional groups for consultation.



The Chair suggested that local radio stations could be helpful for disseminating information. Ian Brodie suggested that USB sticks could often be useful for providing copies of documents to local groups.

Discussion took place around the complications that could arise as a result of the expectations, regulations, and understanding of community planning and development. It was noted that ways to make this interface easier for community groups to navigate would likely be welcomed.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation by Corporate Support Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, submitted)

## **12. INLUDEM - YOUTH JUSTICE**

Consideration was given to a presentation by David Gould, Associate Researcher, Includem, in relation to Includem's ADAPT Research Project. Information was provided in relation to Includem's background as a Scottish charity dedicated to providing 24-hour, one-to-one support for young people and their families/carers; their normal operating processes when assisting young people who may be in conflict with the law; and funding from the Scottish Government's Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to identify gaps and opportunities in provisions for young people who are in potential or actual conflict with the law.

It was noted that Includem were engaging with services and organisations across Scotland to identify gaps in current services and provisions for young people in order to create pilot projects that could work alongside existing services. It was noted that 12 broad themes had been identified across Scotland in relation to youth justice, with a variety of factors identified in relation to this and Includem were planning to design pilot projects around local needs. The Associate Researcher provided examples of current pilot projects, including bail support; structured deferred sentencing support; and restorative justice.

Councillor McFadzean offered his support following the meeting in identifying suitable contacts within his Ward.

The Community Justice Co-ordinator advised that she would welcome discussions with the Associate Researcher following the meeting to discuss areas of possible joint working.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Leaflet by Includem, submitted and Presentation by Associate Researcher, Includem, tabled)

## **13. DRAFT ARGYLL & BUTE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PLAN 2023-2027**

Consideration was given to a presentation which provided information in relation to the draft Argyll and Bute Community Justice Plan 2023-27. The report provided details in relation to the National Strategy for Community Justice; the core membership of the Community Justice Partnership; the overall strategic context of the Vision for Justice in Scotland and National Strategy for Community Justice; the development of the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP); the Community Justice Pathways Assessment process; and the timescales for the consultation and publication of the plan.

The Community Justice Co-Ordinator particularly highlighted work being carried out to address the identified priorities, including collaboration with the Alcohol and Drug Partnership; the Justice Advocacy pilot with Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service; and possible collaborative working with Includem around restorative justice.

Discussion took place around Police Scotland's consultation on the possible closure of the main custody centre in Argyll and Bute, and the Community Justice Co-Ordinator confirmed that discussions would need to take place around the possible impact of this for the local area.

### **Decision**

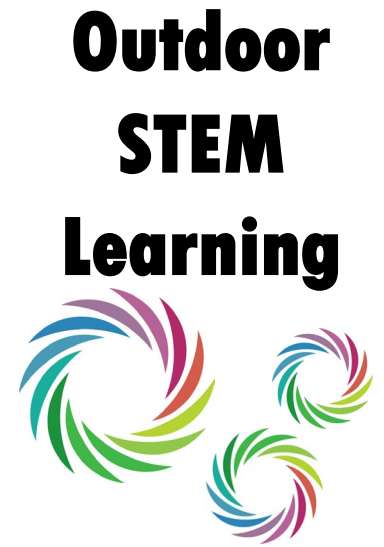
The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation by Community Justice Co-Ordinator, Argyll and Bute Council, submitted)

### **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted that the next meeting of the Group was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 1 May 2024 on a hybrid basis. It was noted that arrangements for holding this meeting on a hybrid basis at a suitable location on Islay were being investigated.

The Chair thanked everyone in attendance at the meeting.





- **150+ refurbished bicycles provided for free to Mid Argyll residents who can evidence a change in travel behaviour.**
- **100+ bicycles diverted from landfill and returned to the community.**
- **Project participants report physical and mental health improvements in addition to a reduction in car use.**
- **Additional benefits from project has been capacity to support active travel within local community groups through workshop delivery and on road skills training.**
- **Provision of free eBike hire to local community groups.**
- **All services provided by fully qualified staff.**

**reCycle Workshop  
based at Blarbuie,  
adjacent the Mid  
Argyll Hospital**

**Funding currently  
being sought to  
continue and expand  
the reCycle project**



**Providing free bicycles to support  
local families cycling**



**Creating upskilling and social benefit opportunities**



# Outdoor STEM Learning



## Working with Mid Argyll Schools & home educating families to provide STEM Learning in nature

- **A one-year pilot project based at the ACT MAKI Pups Outdoor Nursery, Kilmory.**
- **Working in alignment with CfE Experiences & Outcomes.**

### Developing hands on technical skills



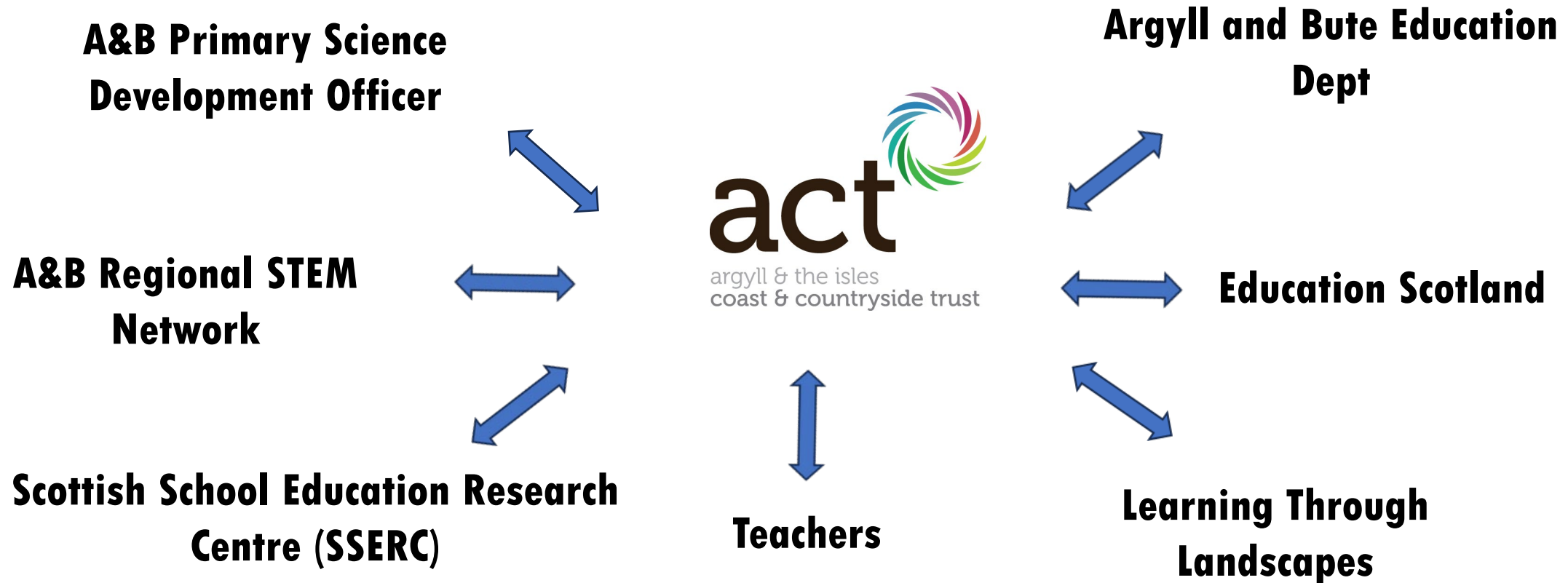
### Fostering social skills in STEM planning and development

### Utilising everyday resources to embed STEM learning





## A network for the growth of Outdoor STEM Learning



**act**  **now.** enjoy forever.



argyll & the isles  
coast & countryside trust  
SC044733

# ABCAN

Argyll & Bute  
Climate Action Network



**The ABCAN hub model is now up and running (since Jan 24) with a delivery team, made up from community organisations, freelancers and ACT employees delivering community climate engagement in all 4 administrative areas.**

- **Seed funding in 23/24 provided circa £48+k of grants which have been accessed by 39 local groups looking to act on climate change. Huge diversity in applicants with many from health and wellbeing sectors recognising climate change as increasingly important to their service users and networks.**
- **ABCAN has created an Argyll & Bute Specific Carbon Literacy Training Course. This certified training is available to all residents and incorporates local relevant examples to build engagement. This is free and will soon be accompanied by training on climate resilience building.**



- **We have delivered 3 regional climate forums, focussing on Energy, Housing, and Food, to reflect Argyll & Bute priorities and capture community voices which will help to inform the wider strategy for Climate Change action in Argyll & Bute.**
- **The ABCAN Website is live at [www.abcn.scot](http://www.abcn.scot) and is the platform to access a membership application/portal, offer training opportunities and climate action support, and be the site of a community led Green Map.**
- **This is further supported by the new ABCAN online network. A place for all individuals and groups to share, collaborate, receive support, and share climate related local news etc.**



**Scan to find out  
more**

## **ABCAN Aims for 24/25**

- **Argyll & Bute communities have the confidence and capacity to respond to the climate emergency.**
- **Broad collaboration and networking, ensuring the engagement is representative of Argyll & Bute communities.**
- **Increased community-level mitigation and/or adaptation/climate resilient actions.**
- **Argyll & Bute communities are empowered to be involved in and influence policy and decision-making.**



## **Jamie Joyce, ACT Now Project Manager and ABCAN Team Lead**

### **Contact-**

**[Jamie@act-now.org.uk](mailto:Jamie@act-now.org.uk)**

**[abcn@act-now.org.uk](mailto:abcn@act-now.org.uk)**

**07943020241**

### **Find out more-**

**[www.act-now.org.uk](http://www.act-now.org.uk)**

**[www.abcn.scot](http://www.abcn.scot)**

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**Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership****Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group****1 May 2024**

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**Community Planning Partnership Management Committee Update**

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This briefing relates to the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee which was held on 10 April 2024. The briefing is for noting and relevant discussion.

**Summary**

The CPP Management Committee met on the 10 April 2024 with the meeting being held on a hybrid basis from the Council Chambers, Kilmory and via MS Teams. This update provides an overview of the discussion which took place.

Reports which were discussed at the meeting can be found by following this link - [Agenda for Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership - Management Committee on Wednesday, 10 April 2024, 10:00 am - Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

**HIGHLIGHTS****Matters Arising from Area Community Planning Groups (ACPGs)**

An update was provided on the discussions which had taken place at all 4 Area Community Planning Groups during the February and March cycle of meetings.

The Management Committee noted the appointment of two new area group chairs, Jean Moffat in Bute and Cowal and Sarah Davies in Helensburgh and Lomond. The Committee also noted that the position of Vice Chair in Helensburgh and Lomond and Chair of Oban, Lorn and the Isles groups would be considered at the next meetings.

The Management Committee noted that Bute and Cowal ACPG had asked for the Police Scotland proposals for Greenock Police Station to be escalated to the Management Committee. Pippa Milne encouraged the ACPG members to contact Police Scotland directly on this issue.

## **CPP Governance**

The Communities and Partnership Manager, Rona Gold, gave an overview of a proposed new governance structure for the Community Planning Partnership to deliver the actions for the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan (ABOIP).

The report noted that additional partner organisations must participate in the delivery of Community Planning as per the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and that other relevant partner organisations can be included in delivery but their involvement is not formally legislated. Miss Gold noted the need to move forward with a focus on action delivery.

It was agreed that a Community Planning oversight group would meet in person, twice a year. A full partnership meeting involving all delivery partners would be held annually for a full day to discuss the delivery of the Outcomes Improvement Plan and to share information. Consequently the planned June CPP Management Committee has been cancelled with the first Full Partnership day in September 2024.

## **Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan (ABOIP) for 2024 – 2034**

### **Outcome 1 - Transport Infrastructure**

John McLuckie, Partnerships Lead, highlighted the work being taken forward against this outcome, highlighting the current Islands Connectivity Plan consultation. Mr McLuckie advised that Transport Scotland are undertaking a number of events to promote the consultation which focuses on the strategic approach to the vessels and ports plan and the reliability, resilience, impact and affordability of ferry services.

### **Outcome 2 - Housing**

The Communities and Partnership Manager advised that the Council hosted an Emergency Housing Summit in November 2023 with the Management Committee being asked to consider which of the resulting 34 priority actions points, under four key themes – delivering more market homes, delivering more homes for workers, delivering more affordable homes and making best use of existing homes, they could lead on or provide support to.

Pippa Milne, Chief Executive Argyll and Bute Council, advised that there are now four Councils in Scotland that have declared a Housing Emergency (including Argyll and Bute) with it being explored nationally through COSLA, and in the Highlands and Islands via the Regional Economic Partnership and the Convention of the Highlands and Islands.

The Development Policy and Housing Manager, Matt Mulderrig, highlighted issues around the systemic housing failures in Argyll and Bute and the lack of housing supply which has knock-on effects on economic growth and provision of services. Mr Mulderrig identified seven action points that he hoped CPP partners could specifically take a lead on or support, such as freedom to use Scottish Government housing funding more flexibly and as an allocation with local administrative control.

### **Outcome 3 - Community Wellbeing**

The Communities and Partnership Manager highlighted the areas of focus for the Community Wellbeing priority and the activities in place to address these, including:

- Broadening equality of access to Community leadership opportunities.
- Furthering equality of access to services, facilities and community assets.
- Working with partners to maximise sustainability of community facilities and services.
- Enabling a voice in collective decision making.
- Enhancing communications within communities, and
- Better understanding how communities achieve a sense of connection and belonging.

### **Projects**

#### **CPP Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan**

Andy Macpherson, Climate Change Project Manager, highlighted the linkages of climate change work to the three outcomes of transport infrastructure, housing and community wellbeing and that he has aligned these to the National and Scottish outcomes.

#### **Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference**

Miss Gold highlighted proposed changes to the Terms of Reference of the Climate Change Working Group. The CPP MC agreed that this Group should continue albeit with a less frequent meeting schedule of twice per year.

#### **CPP Community Wealth Building (CWB) Short Life Steering Group**

Takki Sulaiman, Argyll and Bute TSI, noted that further work was required on the framework for action draft and that this could be addressed by a wider steering group, noting the positive example of the Climate Change Working Group successfully working across, and engaging with, many partners.

#### **For further information, please contact:**

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**Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership****Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group****1 May 2024**

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**UPDATE ON COMMUNITY COUNCIL INTERIM BY-ELECTIONS**

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This briefing provides an update for partners to note on the membership of community councils in the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area following the closure of the nomination period for the interim by-elections. The briefing is for noting and relevant discussion.

**Summary**

Community Council Interim by-elections are taking place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. The elections mark the mid-term process. This process required that all vacancies on all community councils were included in the interim by-elections. In addition those who have been appointed by the community council as co-optee will no longer hold office as such on the day of election unless they have successfully stood for election.

**Detail**

The Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Argyll and Bute provides for an interim by-election to be held. This generally takes place at the mid-term of the 4 year term. The Returning Officer set the date of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 for the by-elections.

A nomination process commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> March and concluded on 21<sup>st</sup> March. A total of 17 valid nominations were received during that period. This can be broken down as follows:

Southend – 3 candidates for 3 vacancies  
The Laggan – 1 candidate for 2 vacancies  
Campbeltown – 0 candidates for 7 vacancies  
West Kintyre – 1 candidate for 4 vacancies  
East Kintyre – 0 candidates for 3 vacancies  
Tarbert & Skipness – 1 candidate for 8 vacancies  
Gigha – 1 candidate for 1 vacancy  
Islay – 0 candidates for 6 vacancies  
Jura – 0 candidates for 3 vacancies  
Colonsay – 0 candidates for 2 vacancies  
South Knapdale – 0 candidates for 4 vacancies

North Knapdale – 1 candidate for 3 vacancies  
Ardrishaig – 0 candidates for 8 vacancies  
Lochgilthead – 0 candidates for 5 vacancies  
West Lochfyne – 0 candidates for 2 vacancies  
Furnace – 2 candidates for 4 vacancies  
Inveraray – 2 candidates for 3 vacancies  
Dunadd – 4 candidates for 5 vacancies  
Craignish – 1 candidate for 4 vacancies.

Prior to the by-election there were 77 vacancies across the 19 Community Councils in the MAKI area.

From the detail above it can be noted that there will not be any contested elections. Figures throughout the areas don't differ significantly and there is only one contested election in the entire local authority area. Again, this is generally reflective of the position when it comes to contested elections.

### **Conclusion**

A total of 17 candidates will be elected to serve on 10 different community councils at 11am on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. There were no rejected nominations but unfortunately 9 community councils did not secure any additional members through the by-election process.

Those community councils who have vacancies remaining after the by-election will be entitled to fill up to 1/3 of their vacancies by co-option going forward. There were 3 co-opted members across the MAKI area that did not submit nomination papers. Those members cannot be co-opted again and will be deemed to stand down on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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[Melissa.stewart@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Melissa.stewart@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

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Argyll and Bute Community Planning  
Partnership

MAKI Area Community Planning Group

1<sup>st</sup> May 2024



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## Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute – a framework for action

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### Summary

Community Wealth Building is an established methodology, adopted by the Scottish Government and soon to be enshrined in law, and which is intended to address the inequalities in our communities by ensuring wealth generated locally is used locally and not extracted. The report identifies numerous local good practice examples, examines them for replicability as well as identifying a framework for action and potential models of opportunity in community owned energy generation and employee ownership models.

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is for the ACPG to note that the CPP Management Committee formally received the Community Wealth Building report commissioned in 2023 at its meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024. This follows on from the January 2024 report '*A Framework for Action*' which afforded the Management Committee the opportunity to debate and discuss the initial report recommendations.

The CPP Management Committee requested that the final report and the models of opportunity be sent to ACPGs for feedback and comment and in particular seek comment on questions of implementation and priority actions.

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 Note that a steering group of CPP partners oversaw the delivery and production of the two reports at Appendix 1 and 2;

2.2 The ACPG is asked to comment on implementation and priority actions within the final report *Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute: A framework for action* (Appendix 1);

2.3 The ACPG is asked to comment on the implementation and priority actions within the two '*Models of Opportunity*' (Appendix 2).

### 3. Background

### 3.1 The five pillars of CWB

The five principles of Community Wealth Building have been developed by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies<sup>1</sup> over a number of decades through work with anchor institutions across the UK and the World. These are:-

- Plural ownership of the economy.
- Making financial power work for local places.
- Fair employment and just labour markets.
- Progressive procurement of goods and services.
- Socially productive use of land and property.

Anchor institutions are identified as statutory and third sector bodies which can influence 'economic engines': The term is used to refer to organisations which:

- Have an **important presence in a place**, usually through a combination of: being largescale employers, the largest purchasers of goods and services in the locality, controlling large areas of land and/or having relatively fixed assets.
- Are **tied to a particular place** by their mission, histories, physical assets and local relationships. Examples include local authorities, NHS trusts, universities, trade unions, large local businesses, the combined activities of the community and voluntary sector and housing associations.

The Scottish Government has published an overview of the responses received to their January 2023 consultation paper on Community Wealth Building legislation<sup>2</sup>.

## 4. Detail

### 4.1 Engagement activity

A series of citizen led workshops were held around Argyll and Bute in July and August with a further online workshop in September 2023. Simultaneously a desktop document search was conducted as well as a series of in depth one to one stakeholder interviews. This research has informed the draft report and the initial recommendations, of which the latter are appended for discussion, development and outline agreement by CPP partners.

Initial discussions have also been held between CPP partners about the importance of the CWB pillars and the specific Argyll and Bute recommendations to other strategies and action plans. For instance,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cles.org.uk/what-is-community-wealth-building/the-principles-of-community-wealth-building/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://consult.gov.scot/economic-development/community-wealth-building-consultation/>

there is an opportunity for the forthcoming Argyll and Bute Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan to incorporate this work on Community Wealth Building and to use the five pillars as underpinning principles.

### 5. Conclusions

There are many existing best practice examples in Argyll and Bute that use Community Wealth Building methods to support and improve our communities by ensuring wealth generated in Argyll and Bute benefits local communities and is not extracted. The report identifies significant opportunities to increase the applicability of the methodology for wider community benefit. It does however require considerable engagement amongst all partners, communities and anchor institutions to identify key areas for priority action.

### 6. LOIP Outcomes

The report relates to all three of the new LOIP 2024-2034 priority areas of Housing, Transport and Community Wellbeing.

**For further information please contact:**

*Takki Sulaiman*

*CEO*

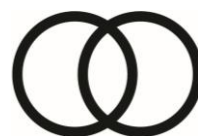
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# Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute

A framework for action



**CLES**  
the national organisation  
for local economies

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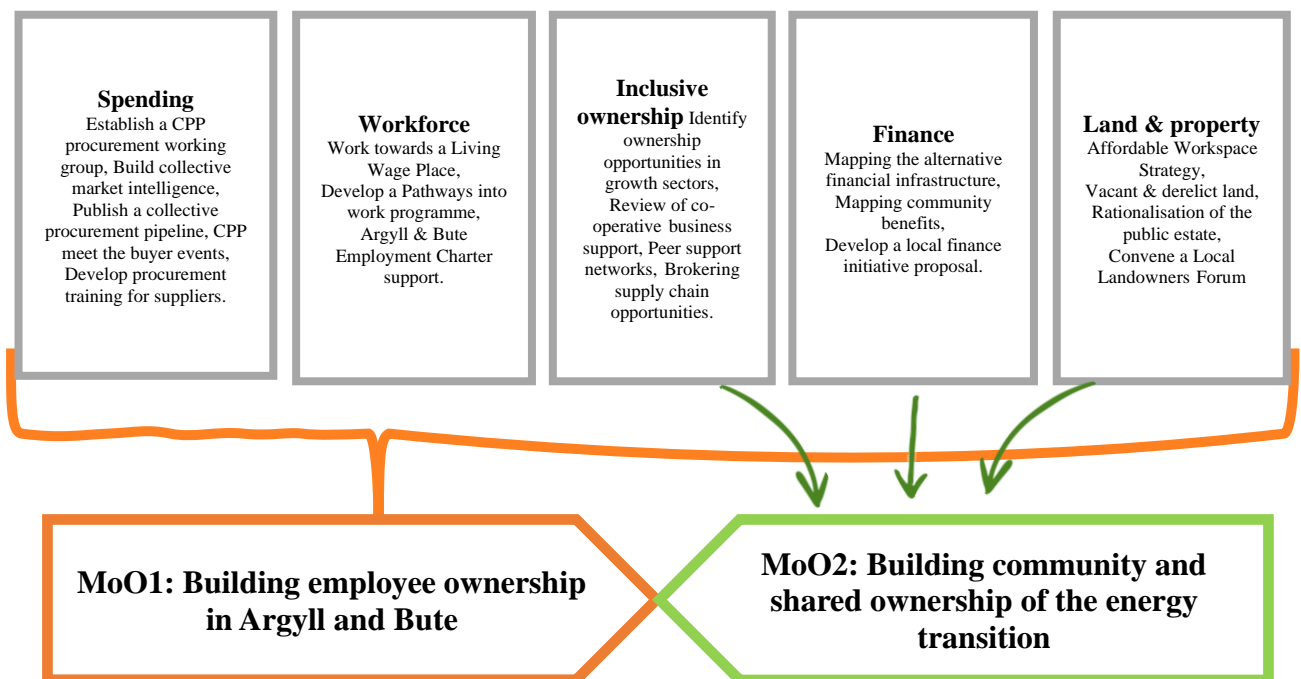
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# Executive summary

The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) has been delighted to work with partners across the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership to gain a deeper understanding of the unique opportunities and challenges Argyll and Bute faces in implementing a community wealth building (CWB) approach. Set within the context of the Scottish Government's commitment to a wellbeing economy and the importance placed on community wealth building being a key practical means of achieving this, this report focuses on the five pillars of CWB and maps out activity that is taking place across Argyll and Bute before providing recommendations to the Community Planning Partnership on how they can develop activity across the five pillars.

We have developed a number of recommendations we believe can help push Argyll and Bute to be a leader in implementing community wealth building but understand the requirements for both legislative and financial support to implement some of the recommendations. We envisage this document to be a launchpad for deeper community wealth building activity across Argyll and Bute and given the extensive nature of our recommendations we do not envisage partners being able to implement them all immediately but can be used as a reference point to refer to when partners are looking to further embed community wealth building. These recommendations should also support the development and implementation of the models of opportunity we have developed in parallel with this work.



## Introduction

Argyll and Bute is at a critical juncture. The area is currently facing several fundamental challenges that have, and continue to, significantly alter the economic and social makeup of the region. Argyll and Bute faces a housing emergency, depopulation challenges, and continued issues around land and value extraction. Market forces are negatively shaping the local economy which is in turn, impacting on citizens' wellbeing and quality of life. To address these deep-rooted challenges, this report argues there needs to be a step change in the area's approach to local economic development, towards an approach which has community wealth building firmly rooted at its core,

one that celebrates and embraces the unique rural economy of much of the region. Only then will we see the growth of a more sustainable, resilient, and more equitable economy in Argyll and Bute.

As a progressive approach to economic development, community wealth building seeks to change the way that our economies have come to function by aiming to increase the flow of wealth and opportunity for the benefit of people who live and work in the area. This is in contrast to elements of the mainstream economic development model, which tends to prioritise inward investment and speculative property development and where the benefits of economic growth are readily extracted in the interests of distant shareholders/landowners. In this economic model, the goal is economic growth, based on the assumption that the benefits will trickle down.

Community wealth building doesn't elevate growth, as the preeminent goal of economic development, but works to redirect and recirculate existing and new wealth so that the benefits flow more easily into local communities with direct benefits for people, place and planet. It does this through five key mechanisms as summarised on figure 2. One key aspect of community wealth building is the idea of the anchor organisation, defined as having a specific relationship to a place through its history, scale of employment, asset ownership or provision of services. Anchor organisations play a vital role in supporting community wealth building. As a collection of public, private and community organisations, the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership (CPP) has the potential to play a significant role in driving the community wealth building agenda and with it economic change in the region.

In this report, we begin by setting out the economic and social context for community wealth building in Argyll & Bute and provide an audit of existing community wealth building practice, recognizing that this is not always categorised as such.

We then provide insights from quantitative data analysis, interviews with anchor institution partners on the CPP as well as workshops with citizens in each of the four local areas across Argyll and Bute. We have analysed these findings to set out a collective community wealth building agenda for the CPP, including setting out priority thematic and spatially themed activities where action is most urgent.

We conclude with a series of recommendations for action both for the CPP and individual partners, including Argyll and Bute Council, who have a substantive role to play in providing a place shaping role for wealth building in the area and a leadership role in the development and implementation of community wealth building nationally, joining other Councils such as Dundee, North Ayrshire, Fife and Clackmannanshire who are using CWB to rewire and rethink their approach to local economic development.

## Economic and social context

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Argyll and Bute is a distinct region that faces a number of challenges but it also has strong foundations to develop a more prosperous and sustainable economy that works for all.

The region has one of the lowest population densities in Scotland, with the 86,220 residents spread across the second largest local authority area in Scotland, with only Highland Council covering a larger land area. This results in a population density of just 12 people per square kilometre compared to the Scottish average of 70 people per square kilometre, with 17% of the population living on islands and 43% of the population living in remote rural areas.

The Argyll and Bute economy is mainly service based, with higher levels of employment in areas such as agriculture, fishing, forestry and tourism than elsewhere in Scotland and due to the seasonal nature of these jobs, levels of unemployment fluctuate throughout the year. One of the region's biggest challenges is the changing demographic. The population of Argyll and Bute has decreased by 2.4% since 2011 and from 2018 to 2028 it is projected it will fall a further 5.9%<sup>1</sup> Over 25% of the population is aged over 65, there is net outmigration alongside

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<sup>1</sup> Argyll and Bute Council Area Profile (2022)[Link](#)

a natural decline in the population. It is therefore essential that Argyll and Bute strives to be an area where people can live good lives, with well paid jobs and in affordable homes.

Argyll and Bute council has declared a housing emergency and in late 2023 convened a housing summit, which brought together partners to pledge commitments to increasing housing supply and embrace bold and brave ideas to tackle the emergency as quickly as possible<sup>2</sup>. This emergency is not a challenge that Argyll and Bute is alone in facing, with local authorities and regions across Scotland and the United Kingdom facing similar challenges. In Argyll and Bute the housing emergency is exacerbated by a number of complex factors including low amount of socially rented stock, high numbers of unavailable housing stock for residents due to high levels of second homes, holiday lets and vacant properties, property sales going to people outwith Argyll and Bute and a shortage in new build private housing supply, with little to no speculative private new builds outside Helensburgh and Lomond.. This is leading to an 8% increase on the council's housing waiting list and a 15% increase in the number of households who are classified as homeless<sup>3</sup>

**‘The way that modern economies have been grown has distanced people from their lands, their culture and their identity. Community Wealth Building essentially repatriates communities back to this. CWB gives communities a say again’ – Argyll & Bute citizen.**

Despite the challenges facing Argyll and Bute, it is also a region with significant economic potential, with opportunities to build wealth locally and ensure community wealth building is central to economic development in coming years.

A growing renewable energy infrastructure and renewable energy potential, highlights the opportunities for Argyll and Bute to be a leader in the transition to net zero. A strong food and drink sector with a world leading whisky industry, tourism, forestry and marine sciences all offer opportunities for a thriving local economy that builds wealth locally. In a report released by Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the economic potential of carbon sequestration in Argyll and Bute was highlighted, with the region's unique landscape offering potentially millions of pounds to the local economy through efforts to tackle carbon emissions. However, previously these industries have often been extractive, providing little tangible benefit for local communities, with holiday lets and Air BnB owners limiting the number of affordable homes, whisky companies often being owned by multi-national drinks companies and multi-millionaires buying up large swathes of land to plant trees and offset carbon emissions elsewhere. As such there has been a growing enthusiasm and appetite for a different approach to economic development. An approach that ensures that more of the wealth generated in Argyll and Bute recirculates in the local economy to generate more direct benefits to local communities, for example, investment in decent jobs, housing, skills and health.

## Policy and governance

Across the national, regional and local level there are a number of policy and governance opportunities that can help deliver a community wealth building approach to economic development in Argyll and Bute.

### National

In March 2022, the Scottish Government released the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET), which outlined their vision to create a wellbeing economy that is thriving socially, economically and environmentally and fundamentally reshapes our economy to deliver a just transition to net-zero and delivers a nature positive economy based on the principles of equality, prosperity and resilience<sup>4</sup>. The Scottish Government has adopted a community wealth building (CWB) approach as a key practical means to achieve wellbeing economy objectives outlined in the NSET. It is, therefore, important to acknowledge that CWB does not sit on its own but as part of a web of integrated policies that support the delivery of a wellbeing economy and a just transition.

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<sup>2</sup> Argyll and Bute Council (2023) Partners pledge to tackle housing emergency. [Link](#)

<sup>3</sup> Argyll and Bute Council (2023) Declaring an Argyll and Bute Housing [Link](#)

<sup>4</sup> Scottish Government (2022) Wellbeing Economy Governments. [Link](#)

There has since been significant progress in implementing CWB across Scotland, with much of the work being led by local authorities and community planning partnerships. As the lead organisation for the community wealth building journey in the UK, CLES and partners such as EDAS have supported CWB across Scotland. Starting in North Ayrshire, we have since developed CWB action plans in five pilot areas (Clackmannanshire, Fife, Glasgow City Region, South of Scotland and the Western Isles) and supported numerous other areas looking to adopt their own CWB approach.

In 2023, the Scottish Government undertook a consultation on the introduction of a Community Wealth Building bill and have recently published the consultation analysis. The consultation focused on two key areas, the impact of a statutory requirement for every public body and local authority to embed CWB into their corporate plans and wider strategies and for consultees to identify barriers in non-legislative measures to accelerate the implementation of CWB. Within the responses an approach that combined both a duty that required CWB to be embedded into corporate plans and a duty that required public sector bodies obliged to be involved in community planning to produce a collective CWB place-based strategy that contained specific actions on the five pillars was preferred.<sup>5</sup>

Alongside the development of community wealth building legislation, there are other Scottish Government policies that support community wealth building and the wellbeing economy agenda. These include:

- **Fair Work action plan** – An action plan that sets out how to promote fair and inclusive work places across Scotland
- **New Deal for Business** – Supporting businesses thrive and maximise the opportunity of the green economy with fairness at its heart
- **Land Reform Bill** – Transformative changes proposed in the way Scotland’s land is used and managed to ensure greater benefit to communities and the environment
- **Just Transition Commission** – Supporting a net zero and climate resilient economy that delivers fairness and tackles inequality and justice

## Regional

This report comes at an opportune time for Argyll and Bute, with several key documents and policies being developed in the region. As such, there is an opportunity to align them and set out an ambitious vision for a more inclusive economy.

The Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy (2024-2029) is a chance to put the aims of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, and with it, community wealth building, at the centre of economic development. The strategy is an opportunity to align the strategic priorities of anchor organisations such as the NHS, Highlands and Island Enterprise, University of Highlands and Islands and others to create an economy that delivers tangible benefits for the people who live and work in the area.

The regional growth deal, heads of terms signed in February 2021 and full deal to be signed in early 2024, has also provided funding for the region, with over £70 million to be invested in initiatives that will utilise the natural assets and business base to develop a thriving local economy. It focuses on three main themes<sup>6</sup>:

- **critical economic infrastructure:** connecting to national and international markets
- **place and people:** attracting skills, residents, visitors and businesses
- **smart growth:** growing, doing more that works.

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<sup>5</sup> Scottish Government (2023) Building Community Wealth in Scotland: consultation analysis. [Link](#)

<sup>6</sup> Argyll and Bute Council (2023) Rural Growth Deal. [Link](#).

This funding is to be delivered over the next 10-15 years and it is essential that any future projects are rooted in community wealth building to ensure the benefits are felt by communities across Argyll and Bute.

## Local

The Community Planning Partnership’s main role is to deliver the outcomes of the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan and to do this it brings together various actors from across Argyll and Bute including the NHS, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Third Sector Interface, Fire and Rescue Service and Skills Development Scotland amongst others.

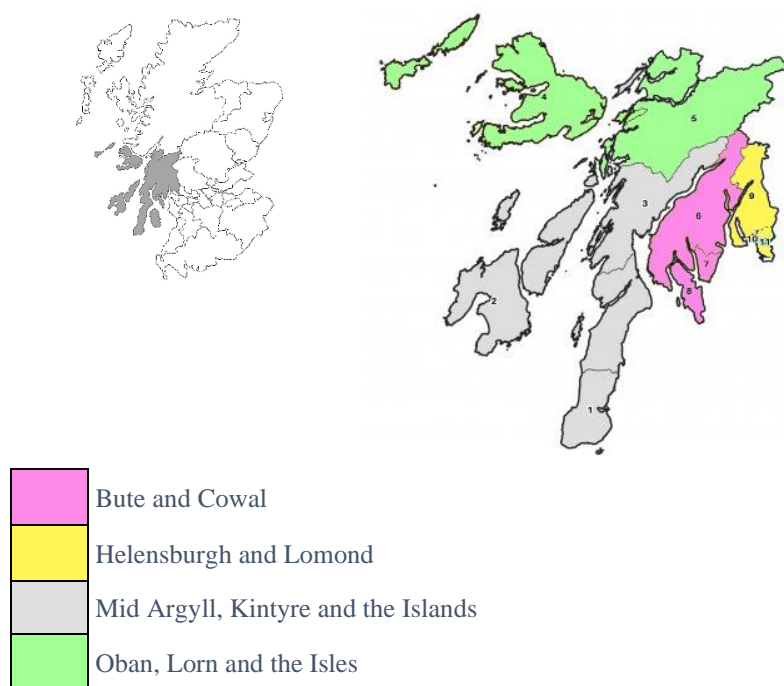
The Argyll & Bute CPP has recently published its Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan (ABOIP) for the next ten years and conducted an extensive community engagement exercise to inform the plan. From their consultation they have highlighted three key priority areas; housing, transport and community wellbeing.

When developing plans on how to tackle these issues, community wealth building must be a central consideration, ensuring that each priority area is not tackled in isolation but with the wider local economic context in mind.

There are two levels to the Argyll and Bute CPP, with a management committee level bringing together representatives from across member organisation and four area community planning groups that bring together members from public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partners that have an interest in the local area. The four areas of the Argyll and Bute CPP are Bute and Cowal, Helensburgh and Lomond, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands and Oban Lorn and the Isles. Each area has a unique geography with the main urban areas being Helensburgh, Dunoon in Cowal, Oban, Campbeltown in Kintyre and Rothesay on Bute. With the rest of the region being made up of remote and rural towns, villages and islands, each area has a unique economy and with it, different opportunities to implement community wealth building.

CPP members are all established organisations, rooted in local communities who can improve the local economic social wellbeing through their spend, employment practices and use of land and assets. This is aligned with the concept of anchor organisations which focuses on cultivating place-based assets and generating wealth that is retained within local area. Anchor networks are institutions who want to work together to maximise their impact on the local economy. The CPP is a ready-made anchor network and tapping into their experience of collaborative working to tackle challenges in Argyll and Bute and can be a vehicle to drive community wealth building in the region.

Figure 1. Map of Argyll & Bute



# Community Wealth Building in Argyll in Bute: The journey so far

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Our lines of enquiry were designed to produce a light touch assessment, drawing on our extensive experience of community wealth building to understand what progress has been made to date in terms of embedding a community wealth building approach and then to develop our understanding of how this approach could be amplified further.

We categorised the responses around the five pillars of community wealth building; Spend, Ownership, Employment, Land and Property and Finance. It is important to highlight the importance of synergy between the five pillars with each one influencing and overlapping the other. For community wealth building to rewire the economy to help local economies and communities, there needs to be a recognition of how they interlink.

Figure 2. Five pillars of community wealth building



## Spending

Community Wealth building requires that all partners test the possibilities of doing their utmost to change procurement practices, utilising public spending to grow and animate the local market alongside growing inclusive ownership and delivering social, environmental, and local economic benefit. The key to advancing spending and progressive procurement as part of CWB, is an awareness and strategic culture, which places procurement as not merely a functional process, but rather a key and pre-eminently important lever for economic development and growing a wellbeing economy. As such procurement within any area requires a concerted and deep effort across CPP partners to develop a more integrated approach, highlighted in our recommendations. In addition, effective progressive procurement, requires the mobilisation of actual and potential supply. This requires effective economic

development strategy and actions by those tasked with business, social enterprise and inclusive ownership development.

The spending pillar is about ensuring there is maximum community benefit from procurement and commissioning, but this should not be the sum of ambition, there also must be a focus on promoting Fair Work and supporting Net Zero ambitions. Furthermore, under the auspices of the CPP, anchor institutions should encourage local suppliers to bid for public sector contracts, therefore creating more local and /or inclusive ownership in supply chains.

In Argyll and Bute, much of the groundwork for progressive approaches to procurement has been laid. We found a perception that prior to COVID, there were a number of progressive approaches across Argyll and Bute, which due to the numerous crises we have faced since then have not returned to pre-covid levels. This previous work includes the council and HIE trying to procure more from local suppliers. However, this work was partly thwarted due to the unique geography of Argyll and Bute. When contracts went to market, the local suppliers did not bid for the work. For example, if a social enterprise based in Oban was looking to win a pan-region contract, it is unlikely to be able to deliver services in Helensburgh or Dunoon.

However, the economic environment has changed and through our discussions with organisations in the VCSE sector, community groups and social enterprises we understand there is now more willingness from local businesses, social enterprises and charities who are looking to access contracts but either don't have the capacity to bid or face other barriers to winning public sector contracts. It is important to understand specifically what these challenges are and how collaborative working across CPP partners could help to overcome them. More creative approaches could be taken in the design of services based on intelligence of potential local suppliers and support as well as advice and guidance for organisations to collaborate as a collective/consortium delivering similar services in different parts of the region.

In Argyll and Bute our consultations highlighted that whilst there were some instances of progressive procurement activity, the main issue is that there is not a comprehensive or consistent position, that is commensurate to best practice elsewhere in Scotland. For example, procurement is not comprehensively perceived as a key economic development lever.

In looking into why there is this less than a full throttle approach, with procurement not perceived as a key economic development lever, public sector organisations across Argyll and Bute like many areas in Scotland are mindful of statutory compliance and staying within procurement law and thus not exposing the organisation to challenge from contractors. Evidence from elsewhere would suggest that more can be done, especially as regards animating supply chains. In Fife, where they have embedded procurement from local suppliers into their economic development approach, they have increased their local spend with Fife suppliers from 26% to 35%, contributing £192m to the local economy.<sup>7</sup>

## Workforce

Within our discussion on workforce we focused on the employment practices of CPP partners and other initiatives to support Fair Work and helping local communities into well paid, fair and sustainable jobs. Best practice of the workforce pillar of community wealth building looks to ensure anchors and other organisations are involved in activities such as paying the real living wage, supporting the creation of employment charters, recruiting from groups excluded from the labour market and supporting in-work progression.

There has been some good work on progressive approaches to employment across the region, including commissioning social enterprises to deliver training and skills development. InspirAlba<sup>8</sup> has been delivering a number of employability support programmes, including 'Spark your Purpose', where they are working with other third sector delivery partners. The Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface has also been running a programme funded

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<sup>7</sup> Fife Council figures

<sup>8</sup> [InspirAlba \(2023\). Link](#)

by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which aims to understand and remove barriers to employment, volunteering and training through their Positive Destinations programme<sup>9</sup>.

It is also evident that the Employability Partnership, a group of organisations chaired by Argyll and Bute Council working together to deliver the Scottish Government's No One Left Behind Policy has delivered beneficial initiatives through the CPP. The delivery of training through the Clyde Fisherman's Trust to provide local young people with the required training to work on a fishing vessel, is worthy of note. There should be a focus on the wider learning from these approaches, to understand reasons for success in some areas and how this can be scaled up and out and transferred to the other pillars of community wealth building.

The need to continue developing fair work for all must align with a growth in the population of Argyll and Bute and an increase in the workforce. If the economy is to thrive and deliver tangible local economic benefits there needs to be a productive workforce that helps retain and circulate wealth across Argyll and Bute. This highlights the importance of CWB not just being an approach that sits on its own, but is woven through the economic fabric of Argyll and Bute.

The Argyll and Bute economy has a considerable number of self-employed individuals, as highlighted in Figure 2. Due to the rural nature of the economy, there is not the same economies of scale that exist in more urban areas with the business stock dominated by self-employed individuals, micro enterprises (90% of all businesses) and SME's (99% of business have less than 49 staff). Argyll and Bute lacks the larger corporations of more urban areas. This presents a unique opportunity to develop an economy that supports and promotes those workers who live in the area and create the wealth at the centre. In the recommendations we look at how supportive platforms could be developed to bolster this section of the local economy.

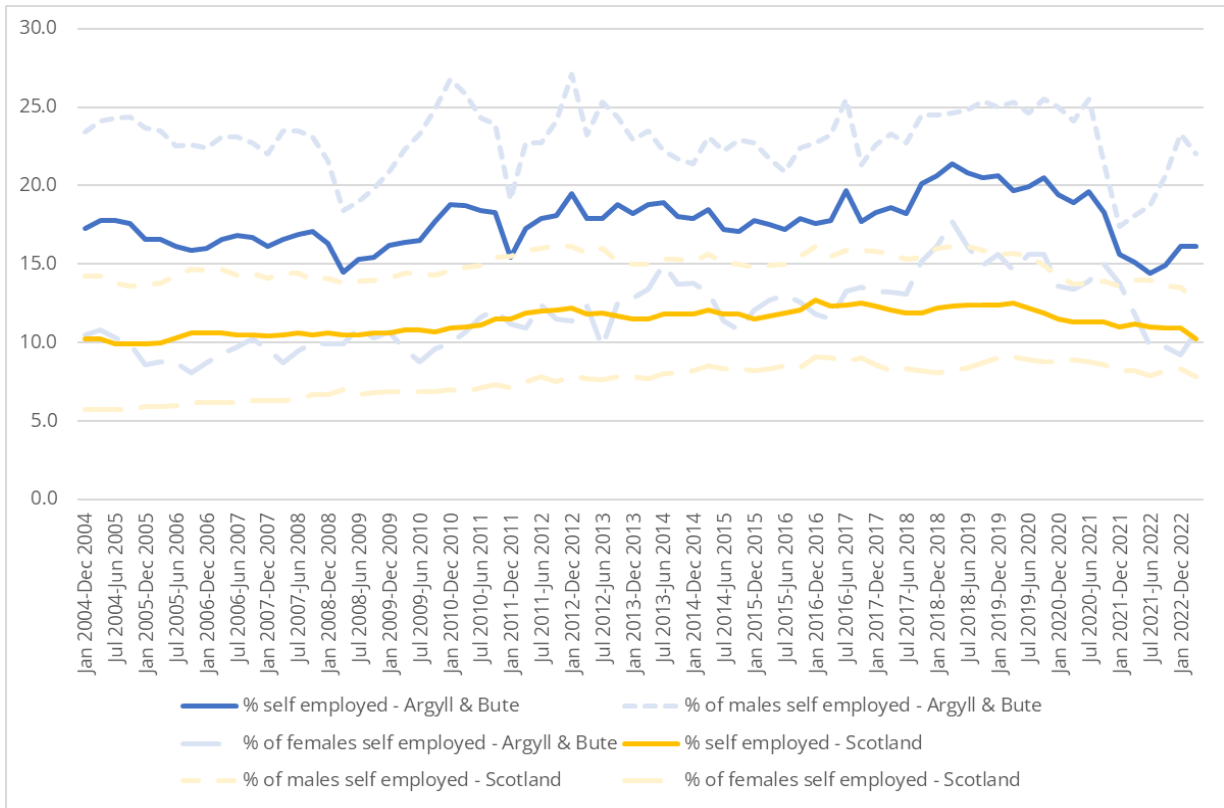
Despite the positive outcomes from these programmes, if Argyll and Bute wants to have a more inclusive economy then there needs to be an ambitious approach to developing and supporting the local workforce at scale and developing a more creative approach that can ensure local people can access the workforce opportunities presented to them.

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<sup>9</sup> Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface (2024) *Positive Destinations*. [Link](#)

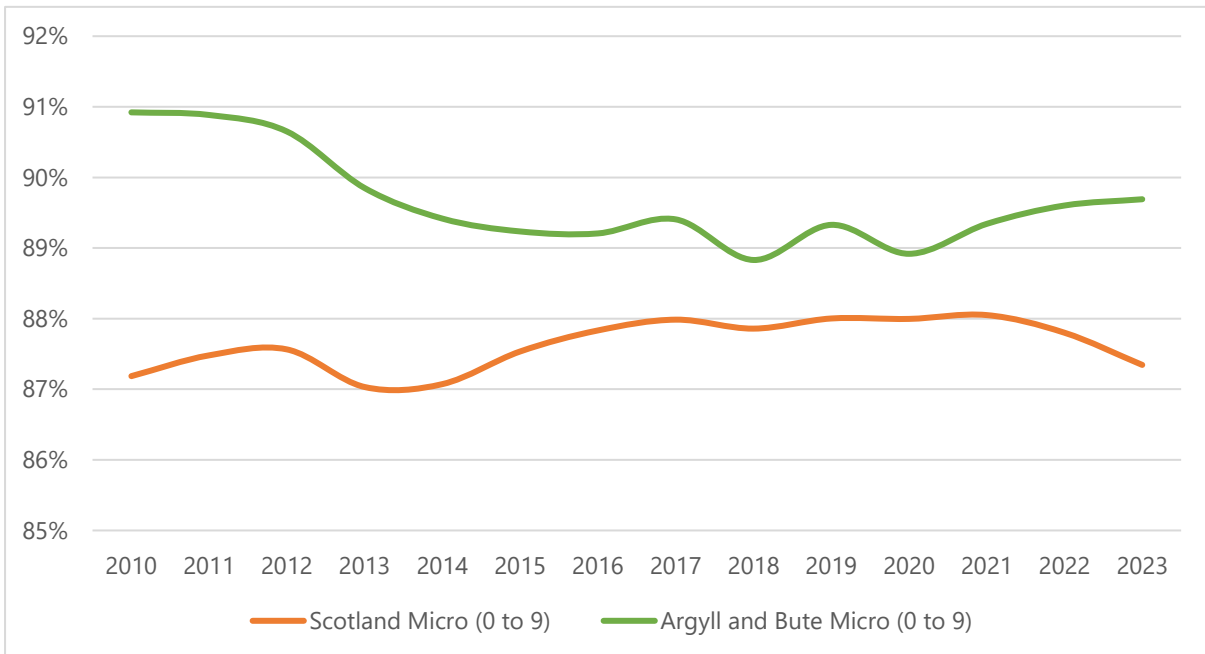


Figure 3: Self-employment in Argyll & Bute and Scotland 2004-2022 (by gender)



Source: NOMIS

Figure 4: Micro enterprise as a share of total business count



Source: NOMIS

### Inclusive Ownership

As mentioned at the outset Inclusive Ownership is central to Scotland delivering on its Wellbeing economy aspirations. Fortunately, Argyll and Bute is well placed and they could indeed lead the way in Scotland. However,

this opportunity is part stymied by trepidation, and a measured appreciation of the risks associated with being overly bold or going too fast. However, we discerned a council leadership and senior officials across Council and wider CPP, who have an appetite for change and being bolder, with further room for development.

There is evidently a strong social and inclusive economy across Argyll and Bute, with a higher density of social enterprises in the region than the rest of Scotland, bar the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland<sup>10</sup>. Social enterprises often provide services that would not exist in rural areas and have a significant role in addressing both market failures and delivering economic benefit for local communities<sup>11</sup>. This prominence of inclusive ownership in rural and island communities provides a strong foundation for the region to become a national leader in ensuring wealth that is generated in communities is retained there through continuing to developing social enterprises, community interest companies, community trusts and other organisations in the VCSE sector. In our consultations we discussed organisations such as the Rural Social Enterprise Hub, who are vital in scaling up the work that is already ongoing, by providing space for collaboration, knowledge exchange and peer to peer learning.

One community company that is building wealth in Argyll and Bute is South West Mull and Iona Development Aird Fada Seaweed Farm, a six hectare seaweed farm that sells in bulk for food stuffs, sustainable packaging solutions, livestock feed ingredient, soil regeneration and cosmetics. This is a growing industry and there is high demand for nutrient-rich seaweed. There are also other benefits including reducing carbon emissions through sequestration, cleaning the water and farming while leaving wild stock alone<sup>12</sup>. There are still challenges for primary processing in the seaweed industry and there has been investigation into developing shore side processing facilities. There should be continued support for this industry and an exploration of opportunities for community led organisations within the sector.

The Mull and Iona Community Trust, have developed a number of business units, lock ups and compounds for small businesses on the island. Infrastructure such as this is essential for small local start-ups to be able to survive, especially in a rural context. Community-led business units are also under development in Colonsay, Tiree and have recently been completed in Jura, partners across Argyll and Bute should be encouraging these types of development but should also be aware of the organisations who are residing in these premises as part of building local market intelligence for potential procurement opportunities. There should also be a focus on ensuring social enterprises, community interest companies, cooperatives and other inclusive businesses have access to these facilities, as these types of business model ensure more wealth is kept in the community.<sup>13</sup>

## ‘Peripherality as a strength, you have to do stuff for yourself’ – Argyll and Bute Citizen

As highlighted there is good work happening on the ground in Argyll and Bute. The region should embrace its rural economic position and the prominence of its small businesses and social enterprises and think more boldly about how it can work to support a thriving SME sector, providing the required infrastructure for local people and local communities to set up and grow enterprises locally.

### Land and Property

Argyll and Bute is the second largest council area in Scotland with extensive coastline and 25 inhabited islands. Agriculture, nature tourism, renewables and marine are all important sectors in the region’s economy. How land and property is used is fundamental to how the economy of the region functions. To ensure local communities get the most value from land and property and as Argyll and Bute grows its wellbeing economy, efforts must be made to tackle vacant and derelict land and buildings to help enable regeneration, stop extractive land management by distant owners and support community led ownership of assets and property.

Throughout our consultation the issue of who owns land and property in Argyll and Bute and how they contribute to the economic wellbeing of local communities was brought up on a regular basis. There is an unease amongst

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<sup>10</sup> Highlands and Islands Enterprise (2021) Social Enterprise Census. [Link](#)

<sup>11</sup> Rural Social Enterprise Hub (2023). [Link](#)

<sup>12</sup> South West Mull and Iona Development (2022) Aies Fada Seaweed Farm [Link](#).

<sup>13</sup> Highlands and Islands Enterprise (2023) Funding Boost for Mull Community Project. [Link](#).

communities about the extractive landowners or ‘green lairds’ who are buying up land with little regard for local communities, often under the pretence of environmentalism.<sup>14</sup> There was a want for public sector organisations to put greater pressures on these owners and challenge them to engage in more progressive land uses. In Bute it was highlighted that a community run organisation could not build a wind turbine due to being unable to agree terms with the landowner. In order to support communities and ensure public value from land, the Land Reform Bill should give communities and public sector organisations more power to challenge extractive landowners, this also highlights that community wealth building is part of a wider agenda to achieve a wellbeing economy in Scotland and should not be seen in isolation.

We also know that there have been perceived barriers with formal community asset transfers, with the process often taking much longer and being more bureaucratic than people initially thought. Furthermore, the state of disrepair and lack of budgets lead to issues in taking forward any transfer. Communities should be supported to enable assets transfers that would provide economic and social benefit in the simplest way possible. However, it is important that communities are not landed with land or assets that turn into liabilities for communities to manage. Community Asset Transfers are not a way for public bodies to off load surplus assets while claiming community benefit.

Another key area highlighted in the LOIP consultation is housing. The council has declared a housing emergency<sup>15</sup> and people across Argyll and Bute have a deep understanding of the housing challenges across the region. In the Scottish Government’s Housing Action Plan, they highlight the potential that the Affordable Housing Supply Programme and the Rural and Islands Housing Fund has for community wealth building. Community led housing can play an important role in delivering affordable homes in remote, rural and island communities, but they can also enhance local living and economic development and encompass both commercial and community uses<sup>16</sup>. Delivering more homes in rural and islands areas can have a profound economic impact beyond just providing homes for people to live in. They can provide jobs through construction and maintenance, offering employment to the local community, the development of small and medium enterprises and helping to retain wealth in communities. Despite the positive impact that community led housing can play it is important that communities are not overburdened with developments that they do not have the capacity to deliver.

The Rural and Islands Housing Fund has supported a number of projects across Scotland including;

- **Supporting Development Trusts on Orkney’s smaller isles** refurbish existing homes or helping building new homes on North Ronaldsay, Papa Westray, Shapinsay, Westray, Sanday and Stronsay. These homes have helped sustain or increase the islands’ populations.
- **Development of Stracathro Estates Inchbare, Angus** – Development of 6 homes for affordable rent, with a focus on letting to families with children of pre-school or school age in an attempt to keep the local primary school open. There was significant interest with over 420 applicants for the properties, highlighting the demand for affordable properties in rural areas. Over £530k of the £1.15 million project came from the Rural and Islands Housing Fund.
- **Intergenerational housing on the Isle of Gigha** – since the community land buy out in 2002, Gigha’s population has grown from 100 residents to 170, leading to a need for more affordable homes to rent. Five new affordable homes have been designed with the intention of encouraging young people to stay on the island. The project has secured funding from the Rural and Island Housing Fund, Argyll and Bute Council and Social Investment Scotland.

The CPP should continue to strengthen its links with the Argyll and Bute Strategic Housing Forum and support tackling the housing emergency but also look to ensure community wealth is embedded through future plans. It is also important to recognise that the Affordable Homes budget has faced considerable cuts in the most recent Scottish budget and will strain an already difficult situation for organisations and citizens across Argyll and Bute.

Central to community wealth building is the role of anchor institutions. However, in rural areas public sector organisations such as the NHS or Universities do not have the same the footprint as they do in urban areas due to

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<sup>14</sup> Reuters (2022) Who Owns Scotland? The Rise of the Green Laird. [Link](#)

<sup>15</sup> Argyll and Bute Council (2022) Council declares housing emergency in Argyll and Bute [Link](#)

<sup>16</sup> Scottish Government (2023) Rural and Islands Housing: Action Plan. [Link](#)

their more dispersed nature. It is therefore important to consider the definition of an anchor institution in a rural community context. Organisations such as Forestry and Land Scotland have considerable impact on local communities but the community are not currently feeling the benefit of their presence. There is also a demand for other organisations who hold significant land and property such as harbour authorities to take a more proactive role in the local economy, something we investigate further in our recommendations.

## Finance

Our discussions on the finance pillar were focused on understanding the financial architecture that exists in Argyll and Bute. The finance pillar of CWB focuses on increasing flows of investment within local economies by harnessing wealth that already exists in the area and directing wealth to tackle inequalities through promotion of progressive financing such as Community Development Finance Institutions, Credit Unions and Community Bonds, ensuring small business have access to finance and encouraging social and value-led investment.

There is currently limited understanding and implementation of this across Argyll and Bute and as such there is an interest and a demand for a new local financial architecture, one which creates a richer financial ecosystem and supports local projects and local enterprise.

As highlighted, Argyll and Bute has considerable natural assets when it comes to renewable energy and should position itself to maximise the benefits of the just transition. However, there is disillusionment with the current community benefits model that exists with most of the windfarms in the region. Many communities say that benefits are tokenistic, outdated and don't tackle the issues communities are facing and that the only way for them to truly benefit from renewable energy developments is through ownership. Although ownership of assets is preferential, ensuring community benefits are modernised and meet the needs of the community is also vitally important, in our consultations there were discussions about the potential of pooling together community benefits to create a wider 'wind bounty' which allowed for larger investment projects.

### 'We need to be joined up with the wind bounty' – Argyll and Bute Citizen

In Glenbarr, Fyne Energy, a subsidiary of Fyne Homes, the second largest housing association in Argyll and Bute, have built and operate three wind turbines which has been able to support tenants during the cost of living through profits generated by the turbines. Profits from the turbine are split into three community initiatives; social housing charitable objectives, supporting employability and environmental priorities and investment in local priorities of local communities. The funding from this project came from a combination of Scottish Enterprise funding and Triodos, the UK's leading sustainable bank, highlighting that high street and large banks are not the only way to access funding for projects that have substantial impact on local communities.

In Kilbirnie, North Ayrshire, the local community has purchased Scotland's first 100 per cent commercially operated but community owned onshore wind turbine, with a local community interest company securing more than £5.6 million investment for the project. The blended finance package secured is an example of looking at alternative models of finance, with £4 million of the investment coming from Thrive Renewables and £1.6 million coming from responsible finance provider Social Investment Scotland and support from Local Energy Scotland and the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme. As it is owned solely by the community the profits from electrical sales will be reinvested back into the community and will secure more in community benefits for local people than all the commercially owned turbines in the local area combined.

Social Investment Scotland is a social enterprise and is a great example of an alternative finance provider that ensures money invested in communities stays in communities, with their mission being connecting capital and communities to make real, measurable, and sustainable impacts upon people's lives<sup>17</sup>. Organisations such as Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and Bute Council and Business Gateway could look to support

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<sup>17</sup> Social Investment Scotland is a social enterprise and charity offering loan funding and business support for social enterprises, charities and community groups. <https://www.socialinvestmentscotland.com/about/>

communities, businesses and charities in accessing fair and sustainable finance by helping to broaden knowledge and understanding of how to access.

# A framework for action

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In the following section we set out a range of recommendations for the CPP to action collectively, reshaping the CPP and giving it a drive and intent to deliver on the CWB agenda and build wealth in local communities. We also set out a range of recommendations for CPP members, seeking collaboration between institutions to advance the 5 pillars of community wealth building with a specific focus on supporting the delivery of x2 programmes of collective action.<sup>18</sup>

These recommendations should underpin the development of the models of opportunity and do not all need to be tackled at once, they should be seen as a series of interventions that will help Argyll and Bute transition to a wellbeing economy and should be viewed within the wider policy context that exists in Scotland, with support for implementing these recommendation coming from the introduction of the Community Wealth Building Bill, the Land Reform Bill and other legislation that supports the NSET and the wellbeing economy agenda.

## CPP recommendations

### CWB intrinsic to economic strategy

This report comes at a critical time for Argyll and Bute, with the region facing a number of challenges. It also comes at an important time for strategy and policy in the region as both the Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy and the LOIP have been under development. There is, therefore, an opportunity to ensure that community wealth building is central to local economic development in Argyll and Bute and ensure that the step change that is required to tackle the region's key issues has policy and strategic backing. To ensure this, community wealth building should be intrinsic to the economic strategy of Argyll and Bute, CWB cannot be considered as an add-on within strategy and cannot be considered as a specific thematic area. Instead, CWB principles should be embedded in a refreshed approach to economic development with a recognition of a shift from previous models of economic development. CPP partners engaged in writing the strategy should review drafts of the economic strategy through this lens and through the recognition that existing approaches are insufficient to address the scale of the challenge facing people and places across Argyll and Bute.

### Decide on correct avenues to deliver CWB across Argyll and Bute

Throughout our consultation there was a recognition that community wealth building in Argyll and Bute should not fall solely on the shoulders of the Community Planning Partnership. However, the CPP partners can play a leading role in pursuing CWB and highlighting other partnerships and working groups that could also drive the agenda. This could include the Argyll and Bute Renewable Alliance and the Strategic Housing Forum among others.

Consideration should also be given to the development of a Community Wealth Building Steering Group who can provide the strategic guidance and coordination to ensure community wealth building in Argyll and Bute builds on the momentum that has been gathering in recent years.

### Development of CWB time limited group(s)

In order to drive community wealth building we would propose setting up x2 time limited groups to take forward action focused work which builds on this report to deliver community wealth in Argyll and Bute. These time limited groups can take a more outward facing role, connect with the community energy on the ground and genuinely co-produce an alternative approach to local economic development. Both models of opportunity will support the work of the economic strategy.

- **Model of Opportunity 1: Supporting employee ownership in Argyll and Bute** – this model of opportunity explores how a more supportive framework can be developed for employee ownership across Argyll and Bute which dominate the rural economy of Argyll and Bute. This is focused on bringing together existing sector representation, specialist business support and institutional power to ensure local and social ownership in these sectors.
- **Model of Opportunity 2: Building community and shared ownership of the energy transition** – this model of opportunity explores how to move from the community being in receipt of Community Benefit payments from private renewable energy operators to owning and operating renewable energy infrastructure. Beyond windfarms, how can the community own and drive the transition to a low carbon future?

Capacity to lead and deliver these time limited groups will present the most significant challenge and this cannot fall solely on Argyll and Bute Council. Nominated leads should work with the Area Community Planning Groups (ACPGs), wider stakeholders and local community groups to engage a broad set of actors who can collectively play a role in delivery and share the capacity requirements.

## CPP member recommendations

A series of broad recommendations under each of the pillars of CWB follow, with these each setting the ground for the effective delivery of the identified models of opportunity and supporting the delivery of the time limited groups.

### Spending

**Establish a CPP procurement working group** - We would recommend bringing together dedicated lead procurement officers from the relevant CPP members to reflect on progress to date and share understanding of the challenges they face in delivering a more progressive approach to stimulate the development of the unique rural economic geography of Argyll & Bute, providing an opportunity to respond to the new Procurement Bill<sup>19</sup> which has just received Royal Assent and work towards the Sustainable Procurement Duty.<sup>20</sup> This group should also include representatives from the VCSE sector to highlight challenges they have in accessing contracts from CPP members, and ensure future procurement plans are created in conjunction with them.

**Build collective market intelligence** - CPP members should work together to build intelligence of the supply capacity of the local SME business base and the social economy.<sup>21</sup> A detailed understanding of the supplier base should then be fed into the early stages of the procurement lifecycle within each CPP member so that procurement and service design are both conducted with the local economy in mind. Part of this market intelligence gathering could include trying to understand the need for sustainable business opportunities in terms of a minimum of three year rolling contracts instead of one.

**Publish a collective procurement pipeline** - CPP members should commit to publishing their procurement pipelines in the same format in a collective space which can be communicated to the local market, with inbuilt mechanisms for feedback which can then influence procurement and commissioning design moving forwards, making public sector procurement opportunities more accessible for local SMEs. This sharing and feedback mechanism could then grow and evolve over time into a portal for bringing together local suppliers into bidding consortia.

**CPP meet the buyer events** - The CPP members should work together to collectively engage the local supplier base through collective meet the buyer events, demystify public sector procurement, hearing feedback on the barriers to engagement and inform procurement and commissioning design as part of a learning loop. These should be informed by the above recommendations, so focused on the types of opportunities that the local market can supply.

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<sup>19</sup> Small businesses to benefit from one of the largest shake ups to procurement regulations in UK history <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/small-businesses-to-benefit-from-one-of-the-largest-shake-ups-to-procurement-regulations-in-uk-history> - The new regime is expected to come into force October 2024 delivering lasting change for generations to come.

<sup>20</sup> Scottish Government (2023) Sustainable Procurement Duty. [Link](#)

<sup>21</sup> Building on the Social Enterprise Census commissioned by TSI.

**Develop procurement training for suppliers** – Local SMEs struggle to engage with the bureaucratic nature of public sector procurement, and while feedback mechanisms should be developed to address barriers and simplify processes (as above), suppliers also need support and training in how to bid for public sector contracts. We would recommend convening the existing business support organisations to pool existing resources and explore good practice from elsewhere such as the Federation of Small Business’ ‘Get Ready to Bid’ seminar series.

## Workforce

**Real Living Wage Place** - Argyll and Bute has a low wage economy with a declining population. Anchor institutions, as a major employers, should commit to paying the Real Living wage or working towards accreditation<sup>22</sup>.

**Pathways into work** – Building on the work of the Employment Partnership, as major employers, CPP members can explore how the adoption of a values-based recruitment approach within their own organisations, can support local people, specifically local young people, into meaningful employment in organisations that offer career progression routes. CPP members can begin by mapping their job families and comparing, simplifying and standardising recruitment approaches so that applicants can be forwarded within a pool for alternative job opportunities.

**Argyll & Bute Employment Charter** – CPP members, local business representatives and local organisations such as BID4Oban<sup>23</sup>, Isle of Bute BID and Dunoon Presents can collectively develop an employment charter, adopting the Fair Work Framework and its 5 dimensions which can set the expectation for local businesses to be working towards a minimum set of employment standards across Argyll and Bute.

**Employment Charter support** – In acknowledgement that many SMEs and social economy organisations want to improve their employment practices, working with existing business support organisations such as Business Gateway and business representatives, we would propose a pooling of knowledge and resources for local businesses that want to improve their employment practices and employ local people.

## Inclusive ownership

**Identify ownership opportunities in growth sectors** – The Argyll and Bute refreshed economic strategy, along with relevant renewable energy, food and tourism strategies all need to prioritise ownership as a key element of growing these sectors. All have been identified as potential growth sectors in which new local SMEs and social economy organisations can be developed, however there is scope to scale up the focus on building local and community ownership within these sectors. Employee and shared ownership models could be key in managing the challenges of succession planning in rural businesses, as investigated in models of opportunity one.

**Review of co-operative business support** - The business support landscape for the social economy needs to be clearly signposted for those developing new businesses, highlighting the benefits of starting a social enterprise, a community interest companies or a cooperative. By signposting these services, it helps build on existing skills, capacity and resources available and how these match Argyll and Bute’s ambition to build community wealth. An ecosystem of support for new-start social economy enterprises is needed, filling potential gaps in support for co-operative development and employee ownership. Organisations such as Co-operatives UK and the Employee Ownership Association can support with the potential to explore an Ownership Hub in Argyll and Bute.

**Peer support networks** – Argyll and Bute has a flourishing social economy and a wide range of well-established community owned organisations in the renewable energy, food and tourism sectors. The connections between these in-place experts, an ecosystem of support for new-start social economy enterprises and the support of institutional partners can provide an invaluable resource for growing community ownership in these identified sectors.

**Brokering supply chain opportunities** – Connecting with the recommendation on spending and engagement across the business support landscape we would propose that existing business advisors become aware of a

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<sup>22</sup> Living Wage Places <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/living-wage-places#form>

<sup>23</sup> Oban Business Improvement District, <https://www.bid4oban.co.uk/>



collective procurement pipeline. They could then support local businesses and could start to actively broker connections between local businesses/social economy organisations and public sector procurement but with improved local market intelligence. The learning from this could support the development of a portal for bringing together local suppliers and shortening supply chains. The #ABplace2b<sup>24</sup> website collates local employment opportunities, and a similar concept could be applied to procurement and commissioning contracts.

## Finance

**Mapping the alternative financial infrastructure** – CPP partners should look to bring together an understanding of the range of alternative financial mechanisms that already exist and can be accessed by organisations in Argyll and Bute, organisations such as Community Finance Development Institutions, Credit Unions and Community Shares while starting to develop an understanding of the challenges faced in financing new activity in SMEs and the social economy.

**Mapping, pooling and strategic planning of community benefits** – Developing a comprehensive understanding of the secured community benefits across Argyll and Bute, and the extent to which this secured income could be utilised to leverage finance for the community to take ownership. There is an opportunity to explore whether there is appetite for community benefits to be pooled together across communities in Argyll and Bute to support larger infrastructure projects that would look to tackle the LOIP priorities of housing, transport and community wellbeing and joining up Place Planning initiatives.

**Develop a local finance initiative proposal** – Building on the above, develop an outline business case for a local community owned finance institution. Filling gaps in provision, pooling community benefits and attracting deposits and savings – a local financial mechanism could connect with government funding streams<sup>25</sup> to fund community wealth building initiatives across Argyll and Bute.

## Land & property

**Affordable Workspace Strategy** – To grow local and community ownership there will be a requirement to develop an understanding of the current and future demand for land and property. An Affordable Workspace Strategy would examine the available business premises across Argyll and Bute for businesses in various sectors and at various stages of development and make recommendations on the anticipated future demand. Argyll and Bute has some good examples of community ownership with the MACC Business Park for example, but this capacity would need to be replicated across the area.

**Vacant & derelict land** – The vacant and derelict land register has 32 sites in Argyll and Bute, and informed by the above Affordable Workspace Strategy, these should be examined for conversion into affordable workspaces. In consultation, local residents expressed dismay at vacant property given the housing emergency and a lack of affordable workspaces. An Affordable Workspace Strategy and review of vacant and derelict land and property ahead of implementation (2024/2025) of the recent changes to the Empty Property Relief (EPR)<sup>26</sup> could support bringing back properties into use for the benefit of the community.

**Rationalisation of the public estate** – CPP partners can bring together their emerging understanding of their workspace requirements, with opportunities for the co-location of office-based staff and service delivery, which could free up parts of the public estate for use by local and social enterprise. Argyll & Bute Council's recent 'Our Modern Workspace' programme is an example of future space requirement thinking that could result in land and property being made available in support of an Affordable Workspace Strategy. Some of this work is already underway in Rothesay, Dunoon and Lochgilphead and should continue to be built on.

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<sup>24</sup> Argyll and Bute – A place to be <https://abplace2b.scot/>

<sup>25</sup> Third Sector Growth Fund, <https://www.gov.scot/news/third-sector-growth-fund/>

<sup>26</sup> Empty business premises could boost local economy, <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/news/2023/oct/empty-business-premises-could-boost-local-economy>

**Convene a Local Landowners Forum** - Engage with the largest landowners to ensure that future land uses can help address the poly-crisis<sup>27</sup> we face as a society. From the housing emergency to the climate emergency, the way we utilise land will shape the collective future of residents of Argyll and Bute. From private estates (e.g., Duke of Argyll) to public bodies (e.g., Forest and Land Scotland, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority, Crown Estate), all need to ensure land is used in a socially productive way wherever possible. As a pioneering approach, partners working together should develop a set of guidance for landowners in building community wealth. This should be supported by future Scottish Government legislation and the introduction of the Land Reform Bill

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<sup>27</sup> Navigating polycrisis: long-run socio-cultural factors shape response to changing climate  
<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rstb.2022.0402>



# Appendix 1: List of stakeholders

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Takki Sulaiman – Chief Executive Officer, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface  
Rona Gold – Community Planning Manager, Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership  
Lucy Dunbar, Community Planning Officer, Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership  
Pippa Milne – Chief Executive Officer, Argyll and Bute Council  
Morag Goodfellow – Area Manager, Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Claire McMurchy – Head of Strengthening Communities, Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Anthony Standing – Head of Region North, Skills Development Scotland  
Ishabel Bremner – Economic Growth Manager, Argyll and Bute Council  
Fergus Murray – Head of Development and Economic Growth, Argyll and Bute Council  
James Paterson – Senior Economic Growth Officer, Argyll and Bute Council  
Mali Gravell – Project lead for Food Policy and Delivery, Argyll and Bute Council  
Reeni Kennedy-Boyle – General Manager, Fyne Futures Ltd  
Christina Hyndes – Shared Ownership Specialist, Local Energy Scotland  
Alison McGrory – Associate Public Health Director, NHS Highland  
Rory Munro – Health Improvement, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership  
Jen Broadhurst – Citizens Advice Bureau  
Susan MacRae – Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland

## Appendix 2: Methodology

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To gain a deeper understanding of community wealth building activity across Argyll and Bute, CLES and partners undertook a number of different consultations including insight gathering interviews and workshops.

Beginning in June 2023, we first conducted insight gathering interviews with key members of the CPP. Our lines of enquiry were shaped around understanding community wealth building activity that is already taking place, where there have been barriers to progressing community wealth building and where activity could be scaled up. The stakeholders we interviewed were from:

- NHS and Health and Social Care Partnership,
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise,
- Skills Development Scotland,
- Argyll and Bute Council,
- Third Sector Interface,
- Fyne Energy,
- Citizens Advice Bureau,
- Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

After this we presented and discussed the work we are doing with members of the four CPP area community planning groups in Oban and Lorn, Bute and Cowal, Mid Argyll and Helensburgh and Lomond. Our consultation questions were shaped around the insights from the initial interviews and looked to dig deeper into community wealth building at a local level.

Having developed our initial understanding, The Resource Collective<sup>28</sup> then led four in-person citizen-led workshops in the four geographical areas of Oban and Lorn, Bute and Cowal, Mid Argyll and Helensburgh throughout September. Insights from these workshops can be found in appendix 2 and how they informed the selections of Models of Opportunity can be found in appendix 3.

Following the citizen-led workshops, which informed the development of our two models of opportunity, supporting greater employee ownership and supporting shared and community ownership of the energy transition, we consulted with experts from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and Bute Council and Local Energy Scotland.

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<sup>28</sup> The Resource Collective, <https://www.theresourcecollective.co.uk/>

# Appendix 2: What does CWB mean to you? feedback)

(Citizen-led workshop

Argyll & Bute (online)	Bute & Cowal	Helensburgh & Lomond	Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands	Oban, Lorn & the Isles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Our economy working for the people, the place and the planet in which we live.</i></b></li> <li>• The work that we do contributing to the benefit of ourselves and the community we work in and not destroying the planet.</li> <li>• Building something – action &amp; actually doing something.</li> <li>• <b><i>CWB believes in economic democracy – allowing all sectors of society to have a say.</i></b></li> <li>• Looking at ways to secure and retain economic prosperity within the community, for the benefit of the community</li> <li>• Working with what we’ve got, not just what you can import.</li> <li>• <b><i>It’s a framework to recognise what we’ve got, what we do and what are the gaps?</i></b> – what are we exporting / what do we want to keep?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rethinking an assumption that things can’t be done locally - they can. This includes resource generation vs outsourcing.</li> <li>• <b><i>Community having a say, having a voice and having control over many facets of wealth.</i></b></li> <li>• All requiring an internal rethinking/different approach.</li> <li>• Skills and resources already present locally – often a case of making a local demographic aware of its own ability.</li> <li>• People sharing and being forthcoming with their skills. Again, a lack of awareness as to what is available locally.</li> <li>• Larger orgs to lead and engender encouragement.</li> <li>• Environmental resources. Watch how we can protect our natural planetary boundaries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership working – sustainable economic future.</li> <li>• What assets do we already have? – how do we best use these / use them better?</li> <li>• Sustainable and circular economy</li> <li>• Strong and resilient community.</li> <li>• Other assets that we don’t account for – volunteering etc., Covid was good for goodwill, how do we get back there?</li> <li>• Sustaining the environment - community woodland etc. Notice that this kind of work has to be done by the community/volunteers etc.</li> <li>• <b><i>People – CWB is a people-based thing.</i></b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social capital</li> <li>• Wellbeing, inclusivity</li> <li>• Not all about money</li> <li>• <b><i>Giving people the tools and opportunities to build their own wealth and wellbeing</i></b></li> <li>• Empowering the community to use their assets to sustain what matters to them</li> <li>• Retain/reinvest wealth assets to improve health</li> <li>• Economic capital – stop extraction of wealth</li> <li>• <b><i>The opposite of private wealth extraction</i></b></li> <li>• A way of starting to unpack capitalism</li> <li>• Providing worthwhile employment</li> <li>• Maintain health provision</li> <li>• System change</li> <li>• Local Economic Dev. (stop leaky bucket)</li> <li>• Focus on assets</li> <li>• People enabled to take action</li> <li>• Improve amenities and community wellbeing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop resilience through use of asset transfer, social enterprise opportunities etc.</li> <li>• Circular economies - being able to identify who the partners are, what kind of wealth they have - time, finance, skills.</li> <li>• <b><i>Prosperity, wellbeing, quality of life, education opportunities and action.</i></b></li> <li>• How rich in skill are we as a community? - not just money. How do we thrive?</li> <li>• Potential to help with ethical procurement - better to serve a company that employs mentally health concerned folks etc.</li> </ul>

# Appendix 3: Selecting Models of Opportunities

## Spending

	Argyll & Bute (online)	Bute & Cowal	Helensburgh & Lomond	Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands	Oban, Lorn & the Isles
Socio-economic context	Higher share of economy made up by SMEs, micro enterprise and self-employed?				
Policy priorities	Where does procurement feature in current policy? A&B have a Procurement Strategy, but do other CPP members? Can we make any links to energy purchasing? Decarbonisation strategies of CPP members?				
Workshop feedback	General feedback on progress being made in progressive procurement – slow?				
Community feedback	Anchor institutions to develop local capacity.	Training for anchors. Unbundling contracts to make easier for small/local companies. Training for suppliers. Support for local/smaller companies around the bidding process		Training for suppliers. Simplification of processes. Support for local/smaller companies re policies.	Make the CPP aware that it's important to give large organisations permission to serve local interests > training
Argyll & Bute best practice					The Resource Collective are offering locally to come in and train a board or exco etc.
Business case proposal		Provide training on progressive procurement to anchors		Training for suppliers	

Learning from elsewhere		Supply Change <sup>29</sup>		FSB Business Bootcamps <sup>30</sup>	
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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.supplychange.co.uk/>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.fsb.org.uk/resources-page/help-for-worcestershire-smes-to-bid-for-public-sector-contracts.html>



## Workforce

	Argyll & Bute (online)	Bute & Cowal	Helensburgh & Lomond	Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands	Oban, Lorn & the Isles
Socio-economic context	Workforce stats – Self-employed? Average wages?				
Policy priorities	Where is the crossover in the LOIP, economic strategy etc... anything in the policy framework which is about supporting local employers?				
Workshop feedback	????				
Community feedback	Huge amount of wealth extraction from our rural communities – be that forestry, wind, fisheries etc.	Traditionally 25% lower earning in Dunoon: ferry fare a barrier? Lack of knowledge on what constitutes fair work and fair employment. Childcare: communities supporting fair work. Leadership and investment required.		More supported working/employment opportunities are required - gaps for adults with additional supports needs. Family friendly hours are required. Imbalance between private and public sector salaries. Shortage of key workers, doctors, dentists, teachers due to lack of housing.	Graduate apprenticeships to address brain drain. Equalities, living wage, zero hour contracts.
Argyll & Bute best practice	Tarbert harbour is owned by Tarbert Harbour Association been going for 120 years, all their income that they generate is recirculated into the public economy.	Future proofing: garage at Sandbank - sent his apprentices over the water to get training on EV. Citizen Advice Bureau study.		Kintyre Recycling provide employment for young people with autism etc – recently lost council contract. South Kintyre Development Trust employs people furthest away from the labour market.	MacLeods - pan Argyll and reinvestment in workforce with apprenticeships.
Business case proposal		Collectively owned employment agencies. Offer support to small communities to become good employers.			An employment charter for Oban - o Start with BID4Oban

					o Elements of the Volunteer Charter would come into it
Learning from elsewhere		The Ethical Recruitment Agency, Grimsby <sup>31</sup>			Fair Work Convention <sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> <https://eraemployment.agency>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.fairworkconvention.scot>

## Inclusive ownership

	Argyll & Bute	Bute & Cowal	Helensburgh & Lomond	Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands	Oban, Lorn & the Isles
Socio-economic context					
Policy priorities	Is ownership a priority?				
Workshop feedback					
Community feedback	<p>Many of our remote and rural communities face a problem with centrally HQ'd organisations (only with local presence).</p> <p>Community ownership of the means of production – wind tower manufacturer used to be based in Campbeltown</p> <p>A number of companies have come and taken advantage of the incentives (grants etc) whilst the actual IP and ability is being created by the community, the wealth is whipped away overseas</p>		<p>Community hydro scheme – village wanted to buy into the hydro scheme but they couldn't/were not allowed.</p> <p>Area has seen a 50% increase in tourists in recent years &gt; benefit isn't being felt locally.</p> <p>Sustainable food and food security - Lomond should be leading the way.</p>	<p>Wind turbines need to be owned, not just a share of a community benefit.</p>	<p>If we had a Bank of Oban then we could address housing.</p>
Argyll & Bute best practice	<p>Islay and Gigha Housing Trust seen as the main anchor organisation as actually of the community, based there and not a feeling of distance from</p>	<p>Local radio station owns a shop that operates as studio and shop.</p> <p>Templar Hall, the venue for the meeting, is community-</p>		<p>Tarbert Enterprise Company – runs good festivals and events.</p>	<p>Local Energy Scotland have an advisor &gt; untapped</p> <p>TSL - we have a local supplier, can we tackle them as part of their CSR?</p>

	having an HQ out of community.	run and has a small café and bookshop.		<p>Tarbert &amp; Skipness Community Trust owned turbine.</p> <p>ShopperAide was held up as a great organisations providing cleaning &amp; laundry services.</p> <p>Gigha Trust, Machrihanish Airbase Community Company (MACC), South Kintyre Development Trust (SKDT), Glenbarr Development Trust, Kilmartin Museum, Keeping it Local, MAC (Mid-Argyll Community) Pool, Beinn An Tuirc</p>	
Business case proposal		Build Community owned tourism into tourism strategy.	<p>Local food growing could be a helpful vehicle for pulling the community together.</p> <p>Cruise ships - an opportunity we're not making use of. Orkney doing it better.</p>	Wool Cooperative	<p>Community-Owned Renewable Energy - shared ownership with developers - could be a middle ground</p> <p>Taste of Argyll vs supermarket</p>
Learning from elsewhere					Tiree Community Development Trust <sup>33</sup>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.tireetrust.org.uk/tilley/>

## Finance

	Argyll & Bute	Bute & Cowal	Helensburgh & Lomond	Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands	Oban, Lorn & the Isles
Socio-economic context					
Policy priorities					
Workshop feedback					
Community interest					
Community feedback	<p>Being able to lever the capital to undertake large scale projects is important.</p> <p>Knowing how to access community funds is important</p> <p>Community bonds as a means to lever capital.</p>	<p>Credit union agreed as needed and a good idea.</p> <p>Community banking as a possible idea.</p> <p>HSCP is heavily staffed – the group considered where do their pensions go? Why not localise these. Existing questions about pension investments.</p>		<p>Community shares work well &gt; ownership.</p> <p>Aquaculture industry has a number of community benefit funds.</p> <p>Community Energy Scotland are exploring the possibility/feasibility of a local grid.</p>	<p>Community Council - lack the resource, knowledge and wherewithal to engage with corporates</p> <p>How to tap into/disperse community benefit.</p> <p>Can we have a localised bank? - lots of personal wealth here that could serve as deposits etc.</p> <p>Feedback saying that access to funding is hard - Oban Common Good Fund difficult.</p>
Argyll & Bute best practice	<p>Fyne Futures: doing a large project in the future but there will be a gap even with central funding. They are fortunate to have income from the wind farm they jointly own with Fyne Homes at Glenbarr.</p>			<p>Islay Energy Trust</p> <p>Gigha &amp; Glenbarr (part community owned). Community benefit funds from hydro schemes at Dalavich and Dervaig.</p> <p>Ardrishaig Wind Turbines</p> <p>Wind Turbines: Glenbarr Community Development</p>	<p>Kilchrenan receiving huge CBS monies but don't know what to do it.</p> <p>Tesco - not effective from a community point of view. They have a community fund but could do more.</p>

				Association is supported by 3 turbines.  Tarbert & Skipness Community Trust have two community benefit funds, Freasdail and Cour/Fern.	
Business case proposal		Credit Union/community bank			We need to be joined up with the wind bounty.  Local Finance Initiative - Lots of reserves sitting in current accounts of third sector, invest that capital in local projects > move from community benefit to ownership of turbines.
Learning from elsewhere		Scottish League of Credit Unions <sup>34</sup> Clean Energy Credit Union <sup>35</sup>			Community Benefits Protocol <sup>36</sup>

<sup>34</sup> <https://scottishcu.org/>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.cleanenergycu.org/>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.renewableuk.com/page/CBP>

## Land & property

	Argyll & Bute	Bute & Cowal	Helensburgh & Lomond	Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands	Oban, Lorn & the Isles
Socio-economic context	Land ownership in the hands of a few, poor housing affordability, derelict land and property				
Policy priorities					
Workshop feedback					
Community feedback	Campbeltown – very relevant for ownership of land.	<p>Community owned tourism – what possibilities are there? E.g., Dunoon Project.</p> <p>Empty properties and churches and council buildings.</p> <p>Community buyout comes with a pressure put on community groups.</p> <p>Dunoon has a BID but feedback of apathy and poor training.</p> <p>In Dunoon there is not a mature understanding as regards the wherewithal of how these wealth generating assets can contribute to the local community. Probably time for a commercial economy CWB workshop.</p>	<p>Local food growing could be a helpful vehicle for pulling the community together.</p> <p>Sustainable food and food security - Lomond should be leading the way.</p> <p>Feedback was reported of a tension in the local area between an old land and an old people.</p>	<p>Lots of village halls in the area but not always well used &gt; often challenging to run/promote, with a lack of local capacity.</p> <p>Skills and expertise are needed to manage land/buildings and budgets.</p> <p>The importance of good volunteers for social support was highlighted &gt; risk of burnout.</p> <p>Lack of affordable housing for key workers and young people. Numerous properties are sitting empty locally. Meanwhile, high rents keep people out. The group voiced whether legislation could be used to ensure this can't happen?</p>	Is there a good understanding of the available and derelict land in Oban? E.g., for Community owned energy generation.

				Growing issues around 'Green Lairds'.	
Argyll & Bute best practice		<p>Community owned shop with a flat above that is being rented out for community revenue.</p> <p>Scoto promoting community owned businesses.</p> <p>CARS (Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme) - 82% occupancy rate for vacant shops.</p>	ACT is working with partners to submit a proposal to the Scottish Government to host a new Argyll Climate Action Hub	<p>Kilmory Business Park</p> <p>Machrihanish Airbase Community Company was hailed as a great example. The initiative hosts businesses including those from the public sector.</p> <p>Community ownership of land in the area is good and they are punching above their weight in relation to carbon sequestration.</p>	<p>Expansion of Atlantis - it's already there and is achievable.</p> <p>Greenshoots (community-owned garden and mental health and social enabler charity)- how to do more and expand.</p>
Business case proposal		Build Community owned tourism into tourism strategy.		<p>Affordable small units in derelict properties &gt; two large local hotels that are currently lying empty.</p> <p>Could there be a 'Best Practice for Landowners'?</p>	
Learning from elsewhere		Fairbnb a good example of rethinking the Airbnb problem <sup>37</sup> .			

<sup>37</sup> <https://fairbnb.coop/>



# Appendix 4: Community Wealth Building

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## More than words

Recent research by CLES has revealed that many areas are now recognising that traditional approaches to economic development, with narrow growth-led definitions of success, are no longer fit purpose.<sup>38</sup> Moreover, there is widespread acknowledgment that changes to practice are required to provide a more comprehensive response to the challenges areas are facing around poverty, inequality and the environmental crisis. As such, the strategic focus is more upon the qualitative nature of the economic activity, as opposed growth for growth's sake. Some have rebranded their economic development departments as directorates of inclusive economy and are adopting a broader set of metrics for success – going beyond GDP growth and looking at unemployment levels, groups of unemployed, the types of jobs people have, as well as life expectancy and hospital admissions.

In the main, however, this renewed strategic purpose has led to areas trying to squeeze more benefits for local people and places out of inward investment opportunities as well as the continued reliance on property development-led regeneration.

It remains to be seen, therefore, as to whether this will be enough to turn the dial here and have a positive impact on poverty, deprivation and inequality. Again however, recent analysis by CLES shows that while foreign direct investment (FDI) has increased in almost all English city regions,<sup>39</sup> this has not correlated with a positive impact on deprivation.<sup>40</sup>

To date, growth-led approaches have been unable to resolve the intractable fact that low-paid, insecure jobs are a dominant feature of the UK's mainstream economic model, with detrimental consequences for worker health and wellbeing.<sup>41</sup>

This is not to say, of course, that local economic development practitioners should not be trying to squeeze as much as they can out of inward investment. But in addition, they should also be looking to diversify their approach to produce wider social, economic and environmental benefits at scale.

## Leading lights

To this end, some areas are starting to tread a different path.<sup>42</sup> Here community wealth building has become a much more embedded approach, with local place-based assets becoming the focus of local economic development practice. This has resulted in the adoption of the following interventions and tactics with a greater focus on the grass roots economy.

### Vision and metrics

Minimising the extraction of wealth and building prosperity for all should be the intention of local economic strategy. Local economies everywhere should now be rejecting the idea that the sole measure of economic success is growth and should be including additional metrics for wellbeing, happiness, the reduction of poverty and carbon emissions. While economic strategy and planning falls under the jurisdiction of local governments, they should unite and inspire here, encouraging and enabling other anchor institutions, communities and the VCSE sector to

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<sup>38</sup> TL Goodwin et al (2022). A light in the dark: progressive frontiers in local economies. CLES. Forthcoming.

<sup>39</sup> Office for National Statistics (2021). Foreign direct investment involving UK companies by UK country and region, (directional): inward. [Link](#).

<sup>40</sup> Office for National Statistics (2019). English Indices of deprivation 2019. [Link](#).

<sup>41</sup> E Yates I Clark and W Rossiter (2021). Local economic governance strategies in the UK's post-industrial cities and the challenges of improving local work and employment conditions. *Local Economy*, 36(2). [Read](#).

<sup>42</sup> TL Goodwin et al (2022). A light in the dark: progressive frontiers in local economies. CLES. Forthcoming.

play a key role in establishing an inclusive local economy vision. CLES's recent work with the Ayrshire region, to produce a new inclusive economic strategy is a key example of this approach.<sup>43</sup>

#### Developing and growing local enterprise

Looking for opportunities to support and influence the behaviour of local SMEs is emerging as a key local economic development tactic to promote a more inclusive local economy. In councils such as Fife, Luton and Carmarthenshire, they are using their own procurement expenditure as a mechanism to grow and diversify their local SME base. Here, economic development officers are engaging with local SMEs to make them aware of their goods and services pipeline, with a view to more of their supply chains being delivered by these local businesses. Through this engagement these local authorities are using this as an opportunity to address the environmental crisis – supporting local SMEs with retrofit and access to environmental grants. They are also encouraging the adoption of the living wage, as well as initiating discussions around succession planning, to potentially transition to worker ownership. This enables these local businesses to grow and develop with greater social and environmental purpose.

#### Diversifying ownership

The development of inclusive local economies also means growing other forms of more socially generative enterprise. Recent research by CLES has highlighted that employee-owned businesses, for example, tend to be more resilient, less indebted, pay higher wages and more productive.<sup>44</sup> Here, councils such as Islington have diversified their business support by commissioning a social enterprise hub and a co-operative development agency.<sup>45</sup> With support from Power to Change, Liverpool City Region has invested £6.5m to support the development local socially trading organisations. With this funding they have established Kindred - a new investment and development vehicle, owned and run by the sector, that is now providing business support and funding to local community businesses.<sup>46</sup> In Greater Manchester, the combined authority is looking to establish a community wealth hub to support and grow co-operative, mutual, social and community enterprises in key sectors of the everyday economy such as childcare.<sup>47</sup> In North of the Tyne, the combined authority has been working with a group of supply teachers and local trade unions to create a supply teacher co-operative. Owned and controlled by the teachers themselves, the co-operative will replace the prioritisation of profit with an imperative to pay fairly and provide good terms and conditions for teachers.<sup>48</sup>

#### Building inclusive skills and employment pathways

Local anchor institutions often have significant numbers of jobs with good terms and conditions that can be targeted towards people and communities who need them the most.

In the West Midlands, for example, the Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care System (ICS) is leading a programme across all of its employing providers. The programme will deliver a minimum of 100 entry level job opportunities each year for three years for unemployed and young people, targeting economically disadvantaged areas across the sub-region. It includes the provision of tailor-made “get into work” development and support programmes, with careers, interview, application support and a programme of post-employment mentorship. The programme commenced during November 2021 and is now seeing its first successful applicants employed.

#### Anchor collaboration

Networks of anchor institutions exist across the UK in light of the numerous partnership arrangements that are particular to local places – such as community planning partnerships in Scotland. Harnessing the impact of place-based assets can be magnified by collaboration across anchors.<sup>49</sup> The ICAN example above from Birmingham & Solihull ICS is a powerful illustration of the potential impact that can be achieved by anchor institutions working together in concert here. In a similar vein, local economies can also use these spaces to collaborate around harnessing the power of collective procurement budgets – as is being explored in Carmarthenshire in Wales –<sup>50</sup> as well as the usage, disposal and stewardship of public land.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>43</sup> CLES (2022). An inclusive economic strategy for Ayrshire: Building community wealth across the Ayrshire region. Forthcoming.

<sup>44</sup> S Benstead and J Heneghan (2022). Owning the workplace, securing the future. CLES. [Link](#).

<sup>45</sup> CLES (2022). Community wealth building in Islington (2018-ongoing). [Link](#).

<sup>46</sup> Kindred (2021). What we do. [Link](#).

<sup>47</sup> Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2022). Launch of the report from the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commission. [Link](#).

<sup>48</sup> F Jones (2022). Unions tackling wealth extraction on the front line. CLES. [Link](#).

<sup>49</sup> CLES (2020). Growing anchor networks in place: a how to guide. [Link](#).

<sup>50</sup> CLES (2021). Carmarthenshire anchors: food procurement. [Link](#).

<sup>51</sup> CLES (2021). Our Land: Final report of the Liverpool City Region Land Commission. [Link](#).



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# Model of Opportunity 1: Building greater employee ownership in Argyll and Bute

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**Vision** – Grow and develop the number of employee-owned businesses in the Argyll and Bute economy

## Objectives

- Explore the development of different models of employee ownership in Argyll and Bute.
- Support a model of business that disrupts wealth extraction, develops a healthier private sector and builds an economy for the future.
- Support local businesses to progress a Fair Work agenda.
- Investigate how CPP members' activity can support these sectors through procurement, land and assets and finance.

## Background

The Argyll and Bute economy faces a number of challenges which requires a step change in the approach to local economic development, moving towards an approach which has community wealth building firmly rooted at its centre, and one that celebrates and embraces the unique rural economy of much of the region.

In a local economy dominated by SME's, with a strong social economy, this model of opportunity pulls together a number of strands of community wealth building to develop a platform for 'Doing business in Argyll & Bute' with a focus on developing understanding and implementation of a programme of support around employee ownership.

Employee ownership brings a variety of opportunities and benefits to the Scottish economy including job security, Fair Work practices and the embedding of people within place<sup>1</sup>. Research shows that in rural areas retaining and expanding existing businesses is often the best strategy for economic development<sup>2</sup>. By supporting employee ownership it not only supports economic development but also population decline as businesses and people remaining in the communities they are anchored to. Employee owned businesses also provide considerable benefit to the economy, collectively the turnover of the 146 Scottish registered employee owned businesses in 2022 was £691 million, with employee ownership leading to increased productivity, increased employee engagement, lower staff turnover and an improved retention of talent<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish Enterprise (2021) Employee-owned business demonstrate resilience and boost the Scottish economy. [Link](#)

<sup>2</sup> University of Minnesota (2022) Retaining rural businesses through employee ownership. [Link](#)

<sup>3</sup> Insider (2022) Scotlands 146 employee-owned businesses have a combined turnover of £691 million. [Link](#)

As part of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, the Scottish Government has set an ambitious target of 500 employee owned businesses in Scotland by 2030. Argyll and Bute is fertile ground for leading the rest of Scotland in this due to a combination of a number of factors including, a high proportion of SMEs, an ageing population and with it business owners getting closer to retirement age and communities that want to play an active role and have a stake in the local economy.

**‘The way that modern economies have been grown has distanced people from their lands, their culture and their identity. Community Wealth Building essentially repatriates communities back to this. CWB gives communities a say again’ – Argyll & Bute citizen.**

There is a precedent for employee ownership in the tourism sector with a number of hotels across Scotland having transitioned to this business model. Within the food sector there are a number of employee owned enterprises and the growth in employee ownership across Scotland demonstrates the resilience this business model can provide to local communities and the businesses themselves.

### **Model of Opportunity**

#### **About Employee Ownership**

An employee owned business is one where the employees, rather than external shareholders, hold the majority of the shares – this can be done directly or through an Employee Ownership Trust which will buy the shares on behalf of the employees. There is not one prescribed employee ownership model and the structure can be shaped to fit the company.



#### Direct employee ownership

Employees become registered individual shareholders with the employees-owners having a majority shareholding in their company. Under these models, business decision making can sit with all employee-owners as a collective or via an elected body.

#### Indirect employee ownership

Shares are held collectively on behalf of employees. This is usually done through an employee ownership trust (EOT). This is the model adopted by firms such as John Lewis and Partners, where all major decision-making powers are delegated to the trust.

#### Combined direct and indirect ownership

A combination of individual and collective share ownership. This can be a model adopted when a financial partner is invited to assist a worker buyout and either party can retain a significant ownership share and decision-making rights.

#### Management buyout

A purchase by a portion of employees (this is not an all-employee approach).

Many employee-owned enterprises trade in goods and services and generate surplus/profit. However, in contrast to investor owned business, that surplus/profit is not taken by outside shareholders. Employee ownership can take different forms and can be conceived as existing on a scale of diversity of ownership and democratic decision-making. This diversity of ownership also correlates with the generative potential of a business. As opposed to where wealth is extracted, generative businesses are those which are broadly held, locally rooted, recirculate income, put communities first and provide people with opportunity, dignity and well-being.

What makes employee-owned business an exciting prospect for Argyll and Bute is that they are often defined by their relationship with a locality and they often develop due to a strong connection between the business operation and a specific place and community. We know that communities across Argyll and Bute have a strong connection to place and there is a desire to ensure this remains.

This can take many and related forms — for example, employees may all live in the town or neighbourhood and/or the business has a close attachment with a specific geography. This means that there is the potential for the benefits of the business's development to flow back into the local community in the form of jobs, income and investment.

The democratic governance structures associated with employee ownership, depending on the specific model, can mean that a higher proportion of people are involved in the management process than in a conventional business of the same size. This potentially creates opportunities for management skills, competencies, responsibilities and expertise to be more widely shared amongst employees. This can

provide the potential for businesses to be more aware and responsive to the needs of employees and the local community rather than the priorities set by investors and financial institutions who may not have a close connection to the specific locality where a business is based. Shared ownership between employees also allows for the share of profits/surplus to be distributed more evenly than in traditional private investor-led models.

## Next Step Actions

- Conduct an audit of businesses across Argyll and Bute that are looking for an exit strategy and explore employee ownership as a viable option
- Develop understanding on how employee ownership could help to tackle challenges across Argyll and Bute, including depopulation, ageing population and help grow growth sectors including food and tourism
- Help support employee owned business to start/grow through an Affordable Workspace Strategies
- Support business owners at start-up, or early evolution to adopt an employee owned or worker co-operative model
- COOPsUK are rolling out the ownership hub model and would welcome a conversation with Argyll & Bute for a first Scottish based hub in 2025, this would involve upskilling business advisors and local accountants/solicitors to help business owners start, scale up or convert to employee and worker ownership

## Case Studies

### Auchrannie Resort

In 2017 the Auchrannie resort on the island of Arran became the first Scottish resort to transition to a model of employee ownership. The model was agreed upon as an exit strategy for the former owners to enable the business to continue to flourish whilst maintaining the company ethos.

New efficiency targets for the business, agreed by the 'new owners', enabled the resort to become a Real Living Wage Accredited Employer in 2018. There was a recognition that the introduction of the wage would support further financial benefits. These included lower staff recruitment costs (due to higher retention), greater productivity and increased occupancy from an improved reputation.

### Aquascot

Originally founded in 1983, Aquascot is one of the largest employee owned businesses in Scotland and a large-scale salmon farming business in the UK.



The business was sold to a global seafood business in 2000, but bought back by committed local shareholders in 2004. The journey to employee ownership then began in 2008 and by 2016 the company was 100% employee owned.

Aquascot have progressive goals around sustainability and employee training and progression which may not have come to pass without their employee owned model. The business recognises they hold an important place in the local economy and within the local community and being employee owned cements that further.

## **Swansons**

This food wholesalers from the north of Scotland has been in employee ownership since 2021. It was originally established in 1991 and grew from a single greengrocers to a wholesale business with over 40 staff and depots in three locations. After turning down a sale offer from a large wholesaler based in another part of the country the owner then decided to begin thinking of the exit strategy from the business.

The transition to employee ownership, with support from Co-operative Development Scotland, encourages staff involvement, loyalty and shows to the local area the business's commitment to it.

## **Where To Go For More Information**

[Employee Ownership Association](#)

[Co-operative Development Scotland](#)

[Social Enterprise Scotland](#)

[COOPSUK Ownership Hub](#)

# Model of Opportunity 2: Building community and shared ownership of the energy transition

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**Vision** – Capture the economic potential of community and shared ownership of renewable energy infrastructure in Argyll and Bute.

## Objectives

- Increase in community ownership, or shared ownership of renewable energy infrastructure in Argyll and Bute
- Explore land and estate mapping of CPP members to unlock energy opportunities in the region across all renewable sectors
- Explore the potential for the development of a regional social enterprise installing renewables across the public and private estate
- Address the skills and employment gaps to ensure a local pipeline of good work
- Investigate CPP members' energy purchase, and align where possible to local suppliers

**Background** - Argyll and Bute has a wealth of natural resources which can and are generating energy within the region<sup>4</sup>. Local communities, however, should benefit from their natural resources. To ensure that they have ownership of renewable energy generation and infrastructure, this would ensure that the wealth generated stays within Argyll and Bute and provides long-term opportunities for sustainability of communities across the region.

“There is a huge amount of wealth extraction from our rural communities – be that forestry, wind, fisheries”

This model of opportunity explores how, through a community wealth building approach, local communities in Argyll & Bute can take ownership of the energy transition, directing the wealth created back into local communities. <sup>5</sup>.

## Model of Opportunity

### Community Ownership

There is a long history of community ownership in Argyll and Bute, with the Gigha 'dancing ladies' being the first community owned windfarm in Scotland<sup>6</sup>. Much of Argyll and Bute is currently covered by

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<sup>4</sup> Argyll and Bute Council (2019) Argyll & Bute in Numbers. [Link](#).

<sup>5</sup> Platform (2023) Public Ownership of Energy generation in North East Scotland. [Link](#).

<sup>6</sup> Isle of Gigha Windmills. [Link](#).

community benefit payments from renewables projects<sup>7</sup>. Whilst these community benefit payments are voluntary, there may be an opportunity to advocate region wide for higher than the standard £5,000 per megawatt for communities. Furthermore, as discussion over community benefits from the Energy Transmission Network are under discussion, there may be further opportunities for communities in the region<sup>8</sup>.

When communities have the opportunity to own their own energy projects, the scale of benefit to the local area drastically increases. The research conducted on behalf of the Point and Sandwick Development Trust in 2019 indicates £170,000 per installed megawatt, compared to the £5,000 industry standard for community benefit<sup>9</sup>. We recognise the funding landscape for community ownership of renewables projects has changed with the retraction of Feed-in-Tariffs (FITs), however, as demonstrated by the ATTIX turbine plans in North Ayrshire there are opportunities for communities to leverage blended finance models of investment to own their own renewable energy projects<sup>10</sup>. Community energy projects have the power to contribute to Scotland's National Just Transition Outcomes<sup>11</sup> and make up a key component of the Scottish Government's plans for the energy transition<sup>12</sup>.

## Shared Ownership

Shared ownership of energy projects could provide an alternative model for greater ownership of the energy infrastructure across the region, without the financial challenges and responsibility challenges of community ownership. Shared ownership is any structure which involves a community group as a financial partner over the lifetime of a renewable energy project<sup>13</sup>. The three most common structures are;

- **Joint ventures** – developer and community work in partnership to develop, own and manage a project. The company may be referred to as a Special Purpose Vehicle.
- **Shared Revenue** – Developer agrees to provide a share of project revenues or profit. Community has a financial stake but does not own an asset.
- **Split ownership** – developer and community own separate distinct entities – one turbine out of five.

Shared ownerships can bring a number of benefits to communities including developing a sustainable income stream, creating strong partnerships and building resilience in a local area. It can also have benefits for the developer including increased community engagement, accessing rate reliefs and potentially supporting planning applications. There may also be opportunities for the public sector to look to develop their own projects, thus shoring up a regular income stream and offering regular community funding for strategic, regional projects.

## Next Step Actions

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<sup>7</sup> Argyll and Bute Renewables Community Benefit App. [Link](#).

<sup>8</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023) Community Benefits for Electricity Transmission Network Infrastructure. [Link](#).

<sup>9</sup> Aquatera (2021) A comparison of the financial benefits arising from private and community owned wind farms. [Link](#)

<sup>10</sup> Social Investment Scotland (2023) Scottish community group secures over £5 million in investment. [Link](#).

<sup>11</sup> ClimateXChange

<sup>12</sup> Energy Savings Trust (2022) Community and locally owned energy in Scotland: 2022 report. [Link](#)

<sup>13</sup> Scottish Government (2019) Shared Ownership of Onshore Renewable Energy Developments. [Link](#).

- Ascertain where CPP members buy their energy from and the collective annual energy requirement today and forecast this into the future
- Develop understanding of the collective role of the CPP members in the renewable energy supply chain, including understanding business support, use of land and property, skills development services and apprenticeships
- Learn from existing community owned renewable energy projects to build more sustainable forms in the future
- Develop an understanding of who owns land that could support community ownership of renewable infrastructure
- Assess how the existing local financial architecture would need to evolve to support community ownership of renewable infrastructure in the region
- Argyll and Bute Renewable Energy Alliance to act as a mechanism to explore a higher threshold payment in community benefit, or shared ownership as standard across the region
- Identify projects in pipeline that could use shared ownership model

### **Case Studies**

#### [Edinburgh Community Solar Cooperative](#)

ECSC was formed in 2013 to address the low volume of solar panels in the city and give residents the opportunity of collectively owning a means to generate power. With the assistance of Energy4All, the City of Edinburgh Council and other organisations, ECSC launched a share offer to raise funds to install solar panels on assorted council buildings throughout Edinburgh. With £1.4 million raised, the share offer was successful and solar power generation commenced in 2016, totalling over 1.1GWh of electricity in the first year of operation.

A Power Purchase Agreement was signed with the City of Edinburgh council, meaning that some of the electricity generated through the solar panels is provided to those same buildings at a reduced rate, compared to a market tariff.

A second share offer has been completed with more solar panels being installed across the area. 30 buildings in Edinburgh host solar panels with the profits distributed to share offer members directly and the community through a Community Benefit Fund.

A similar, smaller scaled project is underway in Glasgow with [Glasgow Community Energy](#).

#### [Knoydart Renewables](#)

Knoydart Renewables Ltd (KRL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the charity Knoydart Foundation. Knoydart Foundation was established in 1997 to take ownership of the 17,500 acre Knoydart Estate which makes up much of the Knoydart peninsula, including the village of Inverie, on the west coast of the Highlands.

Knoydart is not connected to the National Grid and generates all of its own electricity. Over the last twenty years Knoydart Renewables has made significant locally generated investment to increase the amount of electricity that can be generated.

Knoydart Renewables Ltd. exists as a wholly owned trading subsidiary of the Knoydart Foundation charity and is governed by a board of volunteer community directors. The day-to-day operations are conducted by a dedicated local team, supported by a wider network of consultants and contractors located throughout Scotland. Knoydart Renewables Ltd secured funding from the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES). It was awarded a capital grant of £2.41 million in 2021.

## [Cross Dykes](#)

Crossdykes Wind Farm is one of the first subsidy-free onshore wind developments to be built across Scotland. The Crossdykes windfarm offered a £7000 per megawatt hour payment, meaning a higher than industry standard community benefit payment reaching the local communities. In addition to this the developers offered an initial 10% share in the farm to the local community, which was subsequently reduced due to local concerns and taken up at a 5% share<sup>14</sup>.

The shares were to be purchased using a loan from the Energy Investment Fund (EIF). The loan would be repaid using income from their shares over a period of about 17 years for the 10% stake, and 7 years from the 5%. It was this decrease in loan repayment time which eventually enabled the community to go ahead with the development.

In 2022, the developer decided to sell Crossdykes wind farm. Although the community had the option to keep their shares and partner with the new owner, they decided to sell. This meant they could pay off their loan immediately whilst still making a substantial profit which they could utilise for local projects.

## **Where To Go For More Information**

[Community Energy Scotland](#)

[Local Energy Scotland](#)

[Energy4All Green Cooperative-Energy](#)

[Social Investment Scotland](#)

[Community Shares Scotland](#)

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<sup>14</sup> Local Energy Scotland. Crossdykes wind farm. [Link](#)

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Argyll & Bute Community Planning  
Partnership  
Area Community Planning Group  
Partnership update  
Date: April/May 2024



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## Partner update – Public Health

### The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2023 (NHS Highland): 'Medication & Public Health – Do the Right Thing'

(Read the full report here: [Director of Public Health Report 2023 | NHS Highland \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/dph/reports/2023/))

Scotland is facing a predicted 20% increase in levels of illness by 2043, if we continue as we are. An ageing population, with increasing numbers living with at least one long-term health condition and increasingly complex needs.

*'We cannot solve public health challenges simply by prescribing medication for them'* – Dr Tim Allison, Director of Public Health, NHS Highland.

The report, published in late January, examines public health challenges and the benefits and drawbacks of prescribed medicines, with a focus on the escalating levels of pharmacotherapy and its impacts on both individuals, and the population and their environment, including the rise of antibiotic resistance and the environmental pollution caused by medications.

In addition to an overview of the **demography and health inequalities** of NHS Highland's population, a chapter on each of the following key areas is presented:

#### 1. The Environment: How medication can make our environment sicker

Medicines now account for 25% of the NHS total carbon footprint, contribute to pollution of the environment and are now classed as emerging environmental contaminants. The report highlights the groundbreaking work of NHS Highland as a founding member of the **One Health Breakthrough Partnership** (<https://ohbp.org>), working to reduce the impact of pharmaceuticals on the environment (PiE).

#### 2. Hepatitis C: How medication is transforming treatment and prevention

NHS Highland's Blood Borne Virus Managed Clinical Network (BBV MCN) remains committed to the ambition of eliminating HCV in Scotland by 2024 (six years ahead of the target set by the World Health Organization) with a local elimination strategy. The development of Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) therapies has significantly increased the efficacy of antiviral treatments which eradicate HCV infection. Effective detection of those who have been infected with HCV combined with the

provision of accessible treatment options enable patients to be treated as early as possible and prior to progression to advanced liver disease, improving health outcomes for individuals, and resulting in cost-savings to the NHS in the longer term.

### **3. Social Prescribing: How an alternative to medication can work**

An estimated 20% of people visit a GP with non-medical needs and up to one fifth of GPs' time is spent on issues related to social needs rather than issues best solved by medical interventions such as medication.

The DPH Report considers the scope and evidence of how social prescribing can compliment pharmaceutical prescriptions in supporting and managing health. It discusses the opportunities & challenges faced, with studies showing positive financial returns, with Social Return on Investment (SROI) ranging from £2.30 to £7.08 for every £1 invested.

The Highland Community Link Worker Programme is currently being evaluated by the University of Highlands and Islands (UHI), and other social prescribing initiatives active across NHS Highland are discussed in the report.

### **4. Prescriptions for Pain: How medication can have long-lasting effects on public health**

Analgesics and opioids (pain medication) carry great benefits to an individual in pain, but they can also bring some serious disadvantages with a risk of dependency, and limited benefit in long term use. An illegal market also exists alongside. Both analgesics and opioids are discussed in the context of drug related deaths, and the benefits of prescribing **Opioid Substitution Therapy** as a therapy offering great help in reducing the serious consequences of illicit drug use are discussed.

### **5. Case Study: How medication and other measures can work together to improve health**

Cardiovascular diseases are among the most common causes of health loss in NHS Highland, contributing to ill health and early deaths. Case studies demonstrate how a combined approach of pharmacology and social prescribing can work alongside each other to produce synergistic benefits for patients with cardiovascular diseases, offering improved health outcomes and reduced healthcare costs.

Overall, the report emphasizes the complex interplay between medication use, public health outcomes, and the importance of integrated approaches to healthcare delivery.

#### **REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTACT**

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## **A Food Share Operation for Mid Argyll**

### **Background**

At present, three charities are addressing the joint issues of food poverty and food waste in Mid Argyll. Moving On Mid Argyll (MOMA) provides non-perishable food parcels via agencies such as Social Services, CAB and Carr Gomm and has no contact with the end customer. Mid Argyll Youth Development Services (MAYDS) provide emergency food, mainly to young people and families unwilling to engage with authority. The Snowdrop (formerly MS) Centre is focused on reduction of food waste via fresh food share and also holds a small supply of non-perishable food for 24/7 access.

In February 2023, a Working Group was set up to address the obvious inefficiencies of these multiple systems and to develop a food share operation to meet increasing demand as the cost of living crisis deepens. The working group is made up of representatives from the three charities, Social Services, the Co-op member pioneer and is supported by our Community Development Officer from A&BC.

### **Process**

Several surveys were carried out in the summer of 2023 to elicit views of the local retail community (those selling food especially), the general public, our partners (Social Services etc) and members of the Job Club, which meets every Thursday morning in the Lochgilphead Community Centre. A combination of online and face to face interviews was used. The findings were clear and consistent.

- Mid Argyll needs a centralised operation providing fresh and non-perishable food, with an emphasis on reducing food waste
- This should be non-judgemental, discreet and accessible
- Advice on other services should be available (and a cuppa and a warm welcome)
- Lochgilphead is the ideal location but a system to supply outlying villages is needed
- Food safety and proper stock rotation are key
- The centre should be open to all but managed to identify and avoid abuse

MAYDS have offered to provide premises for the centre in a building adjacent to their offices. This is an ideal location as it is central, but discreet. The Environmental Health team at A&BC have visited the premises and advised on action required, quotations for the work have been received and funding and other support applied for. It was agreed that one part time salaried employee should be recruited to have overall control of the operation, supported by volunteers and young people on the WorkingRite program which is run by MAYDS in Argyll and Bute.

### **Funding**

Funding is being sought for a one-year pilot. The total cost including building work, capital cost and running costs for this are estimated at just under £34K. Core funding of £22,700 has been secured from the Ventient A-Chruach Community Fund and an additional £2,500 has been applied for from the A&BC Supporting Communities Fund. MAYDS have provided rent in kind estimated at £2,400 and MOMA will provide stock and cash to the value of £3000. The Co-Op have agreed to provide second hand shelving and contractors to install it. Jewsons will provide paint FOC. An approach has been made to SSE for £1,500. An application will be made to the ACHA Community Action Fund and the Balfour Beatty Charitable Trust will also be approached.

### **Timing**

Macleods have been approached to carry out the necessary building works with a target completion date on end May. Recruitment of the salaried employee will start in April to be in post by end May.

Training of volunteers and PVG assessments will take place during May and June. Fit out is planned to take place in June and the goal is to open the centre in mid-July.

## **Monitoring Success**

Success in an ideal world would of course mean no need for such a facility but in the scope of the pilot, usage of the facility by family size, frequency of attendance and geographic spread will be captured. Numbers of food parcels provided via agencies will continue to be recorded as currently. Consumption of stock items will be tracked. We will also use the pilot to assess the success of referral to other services and to identify other associated activities which could prove beneficial to customers.

Kim Ritchie

Trustee, MOMA

16<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**OFFICIAL****Neighbourhood Watch**

Police Scotland continues to work in partnership with and promote the activity of Neighbourhood Watch. The Community Team would like to encourage all Community Councils to consider implementing a Neighbourhood Watch for their respective areas. It is a community led initiative to bring local people together to address crime and other community safety issues. Neighbourhood Watch groups often liaise with the local police, the local authority and other agencies. The concept originated in the United States and was introduced into the UK in the 1980s.

Behind it lies a very simple idea; working together can help to improve your community. Neighbourhood Watches can be large, covering most of the households on an estate, or they might involve just a few houses. They may meet frequently, or keep in touch via e-mail or social media. There really is no 'one size fits all' approach to Neighbourhood Watch. Neighbourhood Watch adapts to fit the community it serves. Quite simply it's "Your Watch, Your Way."

3 PDF leaflets have been included within the pack, which show you who to contact to develop this further.

**Management Changes**

We are pleased to announce that Sector & Communities Insp, Lee Page, has been temporarily promoted to Chief Insp for Culture & Change within L Division. As such we welcome Insp Karen MacLennan into this vacated post, bringing with her PC Eilidh Ann Dewar, who will join Sgt Matt Shaw. This positive move increases the team size and provides more resilience to be responsive to the needs of our community. Chief Insp Simon Shanks is continuing as the Area Command for OLI & MAKI.

**Easter Demand**

Police Scotland continues to monitor demand and incidents caused by youth activity, especially in the Easter Break. Areas in OLI and MAKI have been subject to bespoke Youth Plans, whereby officers and stations are provided with set areas to patrol, issues to watch out for and prevent as well as bespoke engagement strategies. The goal is to ensure that our communities are not only safe, but feel safe, whilst seeking to engage youths in a way that helps to educate and redirect them to positive activities rather than criminalise. On occasion communities may see temporary CCTV deployed to evidentially help support officers in dealing with these matters. On such occasions Police work closely with the Council to ensure any deployments are proportionate and compliant with Data Protection principles and Human Rights obligations.

**Lifelines Scotland**

Is a national NHS project, hosted by the Rivers Centre in NHS Lothian, working with government, statutory, voluntary and charitable partners to support the wellbeing of the emergency service staff and volunteers in Scotland.

Police Scotland has committed to training all its officers in elements of this initiative, to provide guidance on: Staying Well – Understanding Resilience and Self-Care, Supporting your Colleagues/Team. Some officers are trained to a heightened degree in Post Trauma Support and providing Psychological First Aid.

The benefits of this cannot be understated. In protecting the mental health and wellbeing of our staff we help to ensure they are better prepared for the rigours of the job, protecting them from burnout and helping them maintain that sense of balance and welfare that will permit better service to the public that we serve. More than this, it permits peer support and early intervention, to prevent staff reaching the stage where more developed help is required.

**OFFICIAL**

All Scottish emergency services are embracing this project and are looking to build it into their normal working processes.



## Signing up to the Neighbourhood Alert system

- ✓ The Neighbourhood Alert system allows registered members to receive FREE email alerts relative to crime, community safety issues and resilience matters, in a local and targeted manner.
- ✓ Current information providers include Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Local Authorities and Get Safe Online.
- ✓ Alerts provide the recipient with information to take a course of action, provide advice, provide information and include a point of contact for reporting.
- ✓ It is easy to sign-up to receive these. Simply log onto the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland website (or scan the following QR code) and select 'Sign up for Alerts'!



## Join your local Watch :

- 1 Once registered for Neighbourhood Alert, under 'What to do Next' you can select 'Join or Apply to Create a New Scheme'. Your local Watches will appear here and you can select to join your local Watch (details of which can be found on the "Benefits of being a member" page).

If you do not have access to a computer or mobile phone, you can have a relative or neighbour register on your behalf.

- 2 Alternatively if you do not wish to register on Neighbourhood Alert please contact your Coordinator, details noted on the "Benefits of being a member" page, and explain what method of contact suits you best.

**If you require any assistance, please phone the NWS office on 01786 463 732.**

## Reporting suspicious or anti-social activity

For a NW to be successful it is important that members look out for each another, are vigilant and report any suspicious activity, vehicles etc. to the Police by calling 101 if a non-emergency, or if you wish to remain anonymous by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

The smallest piece of information may be the missing piece of the jigsaw which could enable the Police to take action - they want to hear from you.

**Remember - in an emergency you should always use 999.**

## Contact Details/Support

[info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](mailto:info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)

[www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)

**Tel: 01786 463 732**

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland SCIO

### Registered Office:

Office 23, Enterprise House, Springkerse Business Park, Stirling, FK7 7UF.

Charity Number: SC036510

## We also deliver



[www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk)



[www.constructionwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.constructionwatchscotland.co.uk)



Neighbourhood  
Watch **SCOTLAND**

Safer Neighbourhoods Stronger Communities



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## Join your local Neighbourhood Watch

[www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)



## Welcome

A Neighbourhood Watch (NW) is now active in your area. Details of your local Watch and the volunteer coordinator are noted on the "Benefits of being a member" page.

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland (NWS) is a registered charity. Neighbourhood Watch is a community led initiative that strives to bring local people together to address crime, along with other community safety concerns, and build community resilience. We aspire to keep everyone safe and generate community cohesion.

## Our Values

**NWS has an ethos that simply allows you to coordinate your scheme, your way! We call it:**

## Your Watch, Your Way

In this introductory leaflet you will learn about how we can help support a successful NW to thrive in your area.

By participating as a member in a NW you will be helping to create community spirit and build a resilient, safer community in the area in which you live, using trusted information from key services.

NWS provides access to sources of support and help through its many partners that include Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards Scotland and community groups. Where possible, NWS will help connect you with local services and Community Police groups.

## Being a member of a Watch - Be connected and feel secure

- ✓ Everyone within a NW scheme plays an important part in making their neighbourhood a friendly and pleasant place to live, while reducing crime. Its members, irrespective of age or background, are vital to its success. We all want to make our communities safer, and being part of a NW scheme can help contribute to this, whilst ensuring the elderly, vulnerable and young are made to feel secure.
- ✓ NWS offers advice and guidance to those who need it, encouraging those in communities to feel empowered, confident and supported... we are all part of the same adventure!
- ✓ Your Neighbourhood Watch coordinator will be your main point of contact and has volunteered to take on the responsibility to help keep its members informed. Communication with members can be made in a range of different ways. Examples include:
  - having meetings (in person or online);
  - using WhatsApp, Facebook or Twitter;
  - by Email;
  - newsletter or Alert posted through letterbox;
  - phone call or home visits.Some coordinators use a mix of these and your coordinator will let you know their preferred methods. They will also be able to assist you to access information should you require further support to do this.
- ✓ Engagement with the Watch is on your terms - and you can be as active as you like. The key aspect is to participate and support your community in a way that suits you.
- ✓ Crucially, sharing and following crime prevention advice and looking out for each other will help lower the potential for crime in your neighbourhood, while creating a friendly environment where neighbours feel safe and connected.

## Benefits of being a member



## Your Watch details:

Name of Watch/area/street(s) covered

Coordinator details

## Benefits of being a Coordinator

Get satisfaction from volunteering - giving something back



Access Neighbourhood Alert to receive trusted information from a reliable source



Support in seeking funds to use for community reassurance and well-being



Work collaboratively with NWS and partners to improve community safety



Create an enhanced sense of community wellbeing



Help build community resilience



Establish Your Watch... Your Way



Working together to develop community spirit



Get to know your neighbours and explore opportunities to enhance your community



Whether you are part of a Neighbourhood watch, a user of Neighbourhood Alert, a board member or a watch coordinator you play a significant part in contributing to a safer Scotland.

## Monetary Benefits

There are monetary discounts for members. Refer to our website for current details.

## Insurance

As a registered NW, you are covered by our National Public Liability Insurance Policy (detail available if required). **Phone us on 01786 463 732 for further information.**

## Signage/Stickers etc

Visit our online shop to view our products and place an order, or alternatively, email us at [info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](mailto:info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)



Safer Neighbourhoods Stronger Communities

## Why not consider joining our Board?

NWS, as a registered charity, is governed by a board which meets quarterly. Could you spare some time to become a board member as we are keen to increase our membership?

If you are genuinely interested in community safety and keen to play a part in community cohesion we would love to hear from you. You can reach out to us on the contact details below.

## Contact Details/Support

[info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](mailto:info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)

[www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)

Tel: 01786 463 732

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland SCIO

**Registered Office:**

Office 23, Enterprise House, Springkerse Business Park, Stirling, FK7 7UF

Charity Number: SC036510



## We also deliver



[www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk)



[www.constructionwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.constructionwatchscotland.co.uk)



Safer Neighbourhoods Stronger Communities



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# A guide for new Coordinators

[www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)



## Welcome

As a prospective new coordinator, we welcome you to Neighbourhood Watch Scotland (NWS) and thank you for showing an interest in helping your neighbours, and your family, to stay safe.

Everyone within a Neighbourhood Watch (NW) scheme plays an important part in making their neighbourhood a friendly and pleasant place to live, while reducing crime.

We all want to make our communities safer, and being part of a NW scheme can help contribute to this whilst ensuring the elderly, vulnerable and young are given a sense of security.

NWS offers advice and guidance to those who need it, encouraging those in communities to feel empowered, confident and supported... you are not alone on this adventure!

## Our Values

**NWS has an ethos that simply allows you to coordinate your scheme, your way! We call it: **Your Watch, Your Way****

You should never feel unsupported, if you do then we have failed you! We have a full range of tools and guidelines to help you in every way, just ask!

In this introductory leaflet you will read about how we can help you set up and run a successful NW.

By setting up a Watch you are helping create community spirit and build resilient safer communities using trusted information. NWS provides access to sources of support and help through its many partners, Police Scotland, Local Authority, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards and community groups. Where possible, NWS will help you gain contact with your local services and Community Police groups.

## Guidelines to creating a Watch

- ✓ Take time to talk to your possible new members, gain their support to set up a Watch. History tells us that new coordinators fear getting too involved and it takes up too much of their time. Once the basics are in place you can do as much, or as little, as you want.
- ✓ Previous new coordinators say that when you start to talk to new members, you'll get more and more interested in helping your community to be safe. Sharing and following crime prevention advice and looking out for each other helps lower the crime in your neighbourhood, while creating a friendly environment where neighbours feel safe and connected.
- ✓ We can put you in touch with a NW coordinator in your area, they can be your 'buddy' and help you through the early days. This will give you the chance to discuss local news and issues that you may want to pass on to your new Watch.
- ✓ Having NW signs warns potential criminals that people are crime alert and watching out for one another. Please visit our website to find guidance on erecting NW street signs around your area.
- ✓ Data Protection is vital to ensure the security of your members and their contact details. Phone us on **01786 463 732** for guidance on how to protect your data and how to communicate with members in a safe and secure way.
- ✓ If you have access to the internet you can read through further details on the NWS website by going to **www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk**.
- ✓ If you don't have access to the internet, simply phone us on **01786 463 732** to discuss how we can provide information that will help you.
- ✓ We will be there for you as much, or as little, as you want!

## Setting up your Watch - checklist

- ✓ Identify a coordinator.
  - ✓ Register your Watch, and sign up to the Neighbourhood Alert messaging system, by visiting the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland website and selecting "Sign up for Alerts".
  - ✓ Encourage neighbours to join via:
    - A door to door visit explaining a bit about the benefits of NW, collect names and a preferred contact method - email or mobile numbers.
    - A NW template letter is available through NWS that you can customise and pop through your neighbours' letter boxes asking them to get in touch with you with their preferred communication method.
- Email **info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk**, or call **01786 463 732** for a copy.
- ✓ Decide how you are going to regularly contact members, there are many options:
    - A meeting.
    - WhatsApp group.
    - Email group (using Bcc).
    - A note through the door.
    - A phone call.
    - A buddy system with a next door neighbour if you have an elderly neighbour who doesn't have access to the internet or a mobile phone.
    - Some coordinators use a mix of all of these.
  - ✓ Start to share Alerts, scam information and local criminal or antisocial behaviour in your area.
  - ✓ Order signage as required.





Neighbourhood  
Watch **SCOTLAND**

Safer Neighbourhoods Stronger Communities

# Is there a Watch in your area?

## Join or start a Neighbourhood Watch:

Get satisfaction from volunteering - giving something back



Access Neighbourhood Alert to receive trusted information from a reliable source



Support in seeking funds to use for community reassurance and well-being



Working together to develop community spirit



Work collaboratively with NWS and partners to improve community safety



Create an enhanced sense of community wellbeing



Help build community resilience



Get to know your neighbours and explore opportunities to enhance your community



# Make it work for you!

## Your Watch, Your Way

Make your neighbourhood a friendly and safe place to live for everyone and help support your elderly, vulnerable and young residents to feel secure. Contact us today, scan the QR code below or visit: [www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)

### Signing up to the Neighbourhood Alert system

The Neighbourhood Alert system allows registered members to receive **FREE** email alerts relative to crime, community safety issues and resilience matters, in a local and targeted manner.

**It is easy to sign-up to receive these.** Simply log onto the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland website (or scan the QR code) and select 'Sign up for Alerts':



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**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**



**SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
Working together for a safer Scotland

# **Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands CPG Briefing Report**

## **Q4 2023/24**

## **Performance & Activity Report**

<b>From:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b>
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## Introduction

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Community Board Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to Community Board based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Whilst using historic statistical benchmarking data, consideration must be taken of the random nature of fire related incidents and events, and how this can pose difficulties in interpreting emerging patterns and trends. This is of specific relevance where Community Board level data is analysed due to the relatively small number of actual incidents/events that occur in Community Board areas.

However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

## Local Firefighter Training Plan

Below is a list of subjects the operational crews have been focusing on within this period. Each subject has been covered both practically and theoretically and recorded in the Fire Service Training recording system.

	January/February/March
Training subjects	BA (Breathing Apparatus) - Tactical Ventilation Q4 RTC – Casualty Extraction Q4 Incident Command Q4 Regulation and Compliance Q4 Pumps, Ladders, Knots & Lines

## Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)

Ward	3 Year Average	2022/23	2023/24
Kintyre & the Islands	0.7	1	0
Mid Argyll	3	2	1
South Kintyre	0.3	0	0
<b>Community Board Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

## ADF Casualties

Ward	3 Year Average	2022/23	2023/24
Kintyre & the Islands	0	0	0
Mid Argyll	0	0	0
South Kintyre	0	0	0
<b>Community Board Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Deliberate Secondary Fire Setting

Ward	3 Year Average	2022/23	2023/24
Kintyre & the Islands	0.3	0	0
Mid Argyll	3	2	1
South Kintyre	0	0	0
<b>Community Board Total</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

## Fires in Non-Domestic Property

Ward	3 Year Average	2022/23	2023/24
Kintyre & the Islands	1.7	4	1
Mid Argyll	1	1	1
South Kintyre	0.3	0	1
<b>Community Board Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

## Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies

Ward	3 Year Average	2022/23	2023/24
Kintyre & the Islands	2	0	1
Mid Argyll	2	1	3
South Kintyre	0	0	0
<b>Community Board Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

## Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Ward	3 Year Average	2022/23	2023/24
Kintyre & the Islands	24	34	10
Mid Argyll	25.3	29	17
South Kintyre	15.3	18	6
<b>Community Board Total</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>33</b>

### **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)**

We continue to work with partners across Argyll & Bute to support duty holders in reducing unwanted fire alarm signal (UFAS) incidents. Our UFAS mobilisation policy has been devised with the aim of reducing UFAS incidents across Scotland. This has been reflected in the relevant KPI's contained within this report.

### **Road & Water Safety campaigns**

In this reporting period, we have continued to work with various partners across Argyll & Bute including Police Scotland, The RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) and local business on Road and Water safety campaigns. We continue to support a road safety governance group established with Police Scotland's L Division. The group meets on a quarterly basis to discuss road safety issues and includes various partners from across Argyll & Bute. In March we attended Road Safety Scotland's annual seminar at the Edinburgh International Conference centre.

We continue to participate in Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) and attended Argyll & Bute quarterly meeting in March. Our Community Action Team (CAT) and local crews have been delivering Water Safety Scotland ice and water safety presentations across schools in Argyll & Bute.

### **Community Engagement Activities**

- Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) following every domestic incident.
- Continue to deliver Fire Safety advice via HFSVs (Home Fire Safety Visits) and provision of smoke detection.
- Representation on Multi Agency Risk Assessment (MARAC) for those affected by domestic violence.
- Continue to support 'Make the Call' campaign and On Call recruitment drive for retained and volunteer stations within Argyll and Bute
- Supporting Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) group and engaging with the public: #RESPECTTHEWATER campaign.
- WC McGloin visited our Youth Volunteer Scheme in Tobermory with national coordinator Ruth Cairns to provide youth engagement training.
- We engaged with school's community groups utilising our Spring Thematic Action Plan (TAP)
- In January, our Community Action Team (CAT) attended various careers engagement pathway sessions in Argyll & Bute Secondary Schools.
- Our CAT visited all High Schools in Argyll & Bute to deliver Water Safety Scotland Ice and Water safety workshops.
- Our CAT attended various STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics events in Argyll & Bute High Schools including Tobermory and Campbeltown.

### **EWDAB (East & West Dunbartonshire, Argyll and Bute) LSO Activities**

- Continued roll out of new fleet SFRS (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) Electric Vehicles and on-station charging points within the area.
- Ongoing On-call recruitment campaigns – Participation in Practical Selection Tests for new candidates as well as successful completion of Task and Task Management by new On-call Firefighters across the area.
- We held a multi-agency tabletop exercise at Oban community Fire Station with various partners to test operational resilience at Glensanda Quarry.
- WC McGloin and members of the CAT attended the annual Road Safety Scotland seminar at the Edinburgh International Conference centre.
- WC Spence along with our training team visited both Celtic and Rangers training grounds to provide CPR training to the club's youth teams.

## **Home Fire Safety**

As part of our commitment to building a safer Scotland we offer everyone in Scotland a free home fire safety visit. We will help you sort out a fire escape plan and provide information about smoke, heat, and carbon monoxide alarms.

**For a Free Home Fire Safety Visit, please:**

- Call [0800 0731 999](tel:0800 0731 999)
- Text "FIRE" to 80800 from your mobile phone.

**Twitter link:** <https://twitter.com/abewdhq>





To: ACPGs	Meeting Date: varied
<b>TITLE OF PAPER:</b> Argyll and Bute TSI CEO Report – ACPG report April 2024	
Prepared by Takki Sulaiman	Presented by: Takki Sulaiman

## Introduction

This report covers the period from 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.

TSI activity for quarter four 2023-2024 has involved completing the final version of the TSI funded Community Wealth Building report, reviewing our budgets, supporting member organisations and the wider community through the council and IJB budget processes as well as planning for our next business plan and new strategy. Our new [website](#) also continues to grow as a space for collaboration and news and we would love to have your views on content and stories.

### **Scottish Government, Parliament, the TSI landscape and policy activity**

Legislation was presented in the Scottish Parliament on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 to activate some provisions of the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023, effective from 1 April 2024. The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) is preparing to implement these changes to enhance benefits for charities and the public. No immediate action is required from charities or their trustees, but we should anticipate updates to OSCR's guidance on their website.

Key enhancements include:

1. **Increased Inquiry Powers:** From April 2024, OSCR will gain enhanced powers to direct charities to take specific actions, appoint interim trustees, and extend inquiries to former charities and trustees. This aims to protect charity assets and improve regulatory responses.
2. **Streamlining Information Requirements:** Changes will clarify and expedite the process by which charities must provide information, improving inquiry progress.
3. **Enforcement on Non-compliance:** Charities failing to submit accounts within 9 months or engage with OSCR will face removal from the Scottish Charity Register starting 1 April 2024. This enforces the duty of financial transparency essential for public and donor confidence.

4. **Registration Criteria:** New criteria effective from the same date will require charities to demonstrate a significant connection to Scotland, such as having a principal office or conducting activities in Scotland.
5. **Operational Flexibility:** The new act reduces bureaucratic hurdles, such as the need for a 42-day notice for certain changes, and permits flexibility in cases like charity mergers.

Future measures include creating a searchable record of disqualified trustees by October 2024, and further provisions by summer 2025, such as publishing trustee names and records of charity mergers. These steps are part of a broader effort to ensure charities are well-regulated and transparent in Scotland. More details here:- <https://www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/charity-law/changes-to-charity-law-after-the-charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-act-2023/>

The net impact of the changes is likely to be a more interventionist approach to promoting good charity governance and practice.

#### **Local strategic partnerships - budgets**

It was previously reported that the council was considering its budget on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 and that there were proposed cuts to third sector grants. The TSI supported grantees by highlighting the negative impact to decision makers via an email campaign and in particular the impact on low-income families with working age parents and carers as well as the loss of match funding flowing into Argyll and Bute. This campaign was successful, and the savings proposal was withdrawn by councillors.

The HSCP was in a similarly challenging position with a need to find £11.4million of cuts and specifically proposed cuts to day care services for vulnerable adults on Bute and Oban. The TSI made representations directly at the IJB by working with family groups and user groups. The cuts have been stalled and a review has been requested which the TSI will be supporting to ensure there is proactive engagement with the affected communities.

#### **Community Wealth Building (CWB) report**

Following this board's approval of funding for a CWB report the TSI has been leading on the commissioning of a CWB strategy and action plan for Argyll and Bute's Community Planning Partnership. The January 2024 meeting approved the 20 high level recommendations, and the April 2024 CPP received the final report.

All recommendations are centred around the five pillars:-

- Plural ownership of the economy.
- Making financial power work for local places.
- Fair employment and just labour markets.
- Progressive procurement of goods and services.
- Socially productive use of land and property.

The final report has been received at April's CPP Management Committee meeting and the report will be sent to the Area Planning Group's for feedback on how to implement the proposals and recommendations which are likely to be taken forward by a new steering group.

## **CPP organisational changes**

In a surprise move in an unscheduled report, and in between council administrations with no elected members present, last week's CPP Management Committee introduced and approved a new model for Community Planning with four tiers of meetings and engagement instead of the current three. The new model involves the use of a statutory partners only oversight group with no TSI and TSO representation (unlike at present on the current Management Committee), a once a year only Community Planning meeting (with wide representation as now but it has not met in a while), the four Area Community Planning Group meetings (as now) and the use of working groups to lead specific pieces of work. This latter is a good innovation with the Climate Change Working Group providing a good test of change, but it is the manner of change and the lack of consultation that is surprising. The model also misses the opportunity of increasing the power and scope of Area Community Planning Group meetings.

As an example, using the current model the TSI, supported by our Social Enterprise Network, was able to promote Community Wealth Building and proposed the research described above to the CPP at one of the four meetings annually. In the new model there is no method for a TSO to propose innovation or to directly collaborate on the community planning agenda at the oversight group.

The TSI role across Scotland is to operate at the interface between public and third sectors and this appears to be a surprise step in the opposite direction. Some public bodies present welcomed the move as they had to represent their organisation at up to six council area CPPs and this move makes their attendance at these more manageable, however this should not be at the expense of local voice and TSO representation. This point was made and ABTSI objected to the proposal.

The paper appeared somewhat rushed, with the change taking place immediately and with no comparator information provided on arrangements with other CPPs - a question that was asked by the Scottish Government observer.

The TSI will be in consultation with TSO groups on next steps and if our members wish to lobby for change then we will take this view to CPP lead partners and the new administration – at the very least consultation should have taken place and elected members should have been present. More on the CPP report [here](#) from the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 meeting.

## **Internal TSI matters, contracts, sector support and strategic action plan delivery**

### **1. Sector funding 2024-2025, TSI funding and reporting and Funders Fayre 2024**

The impact of the national budget first received in December 2023 is continuing to make its way through the funding and commissioning systems of the Scottish Government. We know that the NHS and Councils are under real financial pressure and many major capital projects have been delayed in favour of preserving jobs and frontline services. However, where protections have not been specified in law or funding bodies have been given discretion over the use of funding pots then we have seen grants and commissioning budgets, hitherto used to fund third sector services, come under increased pressure.

TSI funding has been agreed for one year only despite ministerial support for a longer-term settlement over two years but we as a group of CEOs are committed to campaigning for a fairer funding settlement and regularly meet with ministers to demonstrate our impact collectively. Whilst we received a 4 per cent uplift in 2023-2024 that was the first uplift in twelve years. It is worth noting that Scottish Government have reiterated their support of Evaluation Support Scotland's approach of a TSI evaluation framework driven by local need, outcomes and not baseline KPIs. In line with other funders, they have continued the trend of removing bureaucratic encumbrances and they have confirmed that the six month reporting requirement has been scrapped in favour of an annual business plan (due end April each year) and an annual review (due end June each year) with a focus on case studies and qualitative outcomes.

The TSI Funders Fayre held in Oban on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 was a great success with 8 funders in attendance and over 70 participants. Feedback has been positive, and we will look to repeat the event with different, but hopefully equally nationally significant funders, in six months' time in another part of Argyll and Bute. The message that we need to work together to support each other during a period of sustained financial pressure was well received.

### **2. Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund – Year four announcement**

Two TSI staff attended a Communities Mental and Wellbeing Fund national conference in Perth in March. The event was held to celebrate the achievements of the annual £15m programme as a source of important funding aimed at grass roots organisations to create lasting change in the promotion of mental health and wellbeing with a focus on prevention and user led involvement. The minister announced that there would be a year four of funding at the same levels as for 2023-2024. National planning for the next round begins shortly.

### **3. TSI Board member recruitment**

Owing to a number of changes, a death, a retirement and a new job the TSI finds itself down to the minimum level of four trustees and we are urgently seeking to recruit from interested people in our locality. We meet five times a year and you will be helping to support third and social enterprise sector organisations to thrive, prosper and support our local communities. For an informal conversation please contact [takkisulaiman@argylltsi.org.uk](mailto:takkisulaiman@argylltsi.org.uk)

and visit <https://www.argylltsi.org/about-us/our-board-2/> to view the role description which is at the foot of the page.

#### **4. TSI at the Rockfield Centre**

With the success of the TSI Hub at Inveraray the TSI is beginning to test new models of co-location.

The TSI has taken flexible office space at the Rockfield Centre and they have started to be used by two new TSI member groups – an autism support group and a heritage group. We will embark on a more detailed research and consultation exercise with local social enterprises and entrepreneurs to ascertain the appetite for hot desk working space. This follows a positive informal consultation on Information Oban which found that there may well be a market for such facilities. If we find an appetite for such a hub, we will then open negotiations with statutory partners and the Rockfield Centre to invest in these facilities.

#### **5. Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network (ABCAN)**

The work of the TSI supported Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network ([ABCAN](#)) is now fully under way led under the auspices of the Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT). The TSI is playing its role and has just completed the disbursement of three rounds of seed and micro grant funding. We are now moving onto the next phase and will provide governance support for the establishment of ABCAN's steering group. Scottish Government funding has been approved for the next year of activity however seed capital funding for this coming year will be less than the £40k available for the year gone but we may collectively fundraise to increase this total.

#### **6. Sustainable Food Partnership online event – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

In late February we co-hosted an [online discussion](#) of setting up [a Sustainable Food Partnership](#) (SFP) in Argyll and Bute. There is an existing network of 85+ SFPs across the UK which are working collaboratively to support and encourage a transition to a healthy, sustainable and more equitable food system. The event was a great success with over 40 – mainly new groups to the TSI – in attendance. Next steps are currently being considered but it is possible that we will host the network as part of our capacity building approach and duties.

By forming an inclusive, cross-sector food partnership, public agencies, community organisations, businesses, and academics can collaborate to create lasting change by agreeing on priorities and action for the local area. The SFP network shows that a local food partnership can help drive a fundamental shift in its local food system and become a hub for a rapidly growing good food movement of active and engaged citizens. It can also help tackle climate change, empower communities, build resilience and help prevent food poverty.

#### **7. Consulting on a new strategy and a local sustainable funding campaign**

The TSI is increasingly coming across groups in financial difficulties and we provide support and advice where we can. The TSI will be consulting widely on a new five-year strategy and

we will be asking member third and social enterprise organisations as well as the wider community about your priorities for the focus of our activity.

We will use this opportunity to check in with local third and social enterprises to see how you are fairing in these challenging financial times. Our goal is to create a campaign that amplifies the sector's concerns about the lack of secure three-year funding agreements that allows us to plan ahead and offer security to our workforce. Watch this space!

#### **8. Research proposal – mapping Argyll and Bute's early intervention services**

As previously reported a proposal, written by the CEO and the Social Value Lab, submitted and accepted by Argyll and Bute's Chief Social Worker about mapping and then investing in preventative support services for children that would be run by the third and social enterprise sector is now up and running. The TSIs All Our Children Network has long identified that third sector services for children are patchy in Argyll and Bute, and this results in children and families going unsupported and needs becoming more serious as a result.

#### **9. Hosting posts and funds for other organisations and programmes**

As reported at the last board the TSI is now, as of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024, hosting a Wellbeing Development Manager post funded by Macmillan Cancer Support and the HSCP and is subject to an SLA. The synergy with the TSI's work is significant as it involves capacity building third sector groups active in preventative healthcare as well as developing information and support tools such as our [community directory](#).

This collaborative approach is deeply innovative and we will explore other areas of work that might benefit from this approach.

**Takki Sulaiman, CEO**

**Argyll and Bute TSI**

[takkisulaiman@argylltsi.org.uk](mailto:takkisulaiman@argylltsi.org.uk)

## Campbeltown CC Report for MAKI April 24

### Trench Point Path

Almost complete, just waiting for the bridge to be put in place and signs erected. Public are delighted with this restoration and the path is already being well used. Unfortunately, litter near Slatyfarlan is becoming an increasing problem.

### Campbeltown Pharmacy

The Community Council is continuing to promote the survey to get a new much needed pharmacy.

### Roads

#### A83

The negative impact of the road closures on the A83 was one of the topics discussed at last week's meeting of Campbeltown Community Council. Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland have been contacted as Campbeltown Community Council has received several complaints regarding the lack of consideration given to the businesses and population of Campbeltown and surrounding area. While everyone appreciates the need for road maintenance and the need to ensure the safety of road workers, the programme of roadworks on the A83 is unacceptable. Starting the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> April, at any one time there are a minimum of three road/carriageway closures on the A83 for transport companies and Kintyre residents to negotiate on the route to Glasgow.

These delays are not only inconvenient but have major effects on local transport businesses, extending drivers hours, missed ferries, company costs and more. We have one company threatening to move out of Campbeltown. This is a business that we cannot afford to lose so we have asked BEAR Scotland to plan the road maintenance schedule to ensure that there are fewer road closures taking place at the same time.

To date we have received a reply from Transport Scotland but nothing from BEAR Scotland. Neil MacFarlane of Transport Scotland advised that *we fit in as many amnesties as the nature of the work dictate. On some jobs we take out more material than others so on these jobs, amnesties are fewer as it is physically not safe to allow traffic past the ongoing works.*

### Esplanade

"Campbeltown CC is concerned at the state of the road surface on the Esplanade and request that it is included in the coming year's road budget."

This was copied from the March 2020 MAKI report.

Campbeltown CC are delighted to see that the Esplanade is listed in this year's programme of works.

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# Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) update April 2024

## Land Management Plans (LMPs)

### South Knapdale

- Scoping underway.

### East Loch Awe

- New LMP being produced following Mid Term Review (MTR)

### Ormaig & Salachry

- Scoping underway for new LMP, consultation Summer 2024.

## Larch- *Phytophthora ramorum*

Programming felling coupes in Deer Hill, Carradale, for 2025/2026.

Specific project to manage young/mixed larch crops.

## Peatland restoration

Peat Restoration Works are live at An Suidhie Windfarm in Eredine, East Loch Awe. Contractors are progressing rapidly with 7 machines on site at any one time. The plan is for them to continue with this site/machinery until mid summer. It is open ground restoration, hag reprofiling and gully blocking.

Restoration works have been ongoing in BAT11, Lussa, with the next project being the Tangy windfarm site to the south of West Lussa.



## Upcoming “complex” operations

### Beinn Ghuilean felling

Programmed to begin felled operations from the east from September 2024 onwards. Further communication to produced.

### Dunardy Face, Knapdale felling

Planning to being Winter 2024, subject to meeting planning conditions.

## Other information

- FLS had a stand at the STEM event at Machrinhanish for local high school pupils to promote forest industry.
- FLS transitioning some of its vehicle fleet to electric vehicles.

<p><b>Core Skills for Life Learning and Work</b></p>	<p><b>Community Learning Hub-</b>The Mid Argyll Adult Learning Hub continue to have partners join them weekly including JCP and Carr Gomm and Welfare Rights are now also attending every two weeks. Adult Learning and regular partners provide information, learning, support, advice and sign-posting related to employment, further education and various life challenges. Other partners e.g. Advocacy Services, Occupational Health and Community Development link in and attend the service too when appropriate or a need is identified.</p> <p>Adult Learning now also have a Literacy Worker in post who attends the hub weekly identifying learners and offering 1:1 support</p> <p>The MA Hub is slowly building numbers and has had up to twenty 16+ adults attending at one time who need assistance and learning in relation to building their core/life/employability skills -moving onto a positive destination. The Hub importantly provides an environment for networking, building relationships with partners and learners, reducing isolation, building social skills, confidence and self-esteem</p> <p><b>Lochside Enterprise Group-</b> Lochside Enterprise group members are adults attending the Lochside ASN centre in Lochgilphead who meet every Monday. The group continue to work with Adult Learning with the aim of improving core life skills and wellbeing alongside developing their enterprise. The group have now completed two projects for their pop up shop and are currently working towards their summer shop. They have also been designing their new enterprise logo.</p>
<p><b>Health and Wellbeing</b></p>	<p><b>The Let's Grow Group</b> in Mid Argyll continue to meet every Thursday. Learners attending are adults 18 – 65+ who are all disadvantaged in some way, in relation to their health and wellbeing. The learners are people who want to improve their HWB through participating in activities outdoor and in relation to nature, engaging in projects such as growing their own produce, outdoor skills, art in nature and woodcrafts.</p>

	<p>At present the group are continuing with their garden and mural project at Ardfenaig Residential home for the elderly. The group continue to engage with the residents and their design for the wall mural is under way. The group also continue to volunteer in the garden and continue to work on making it over in time for the summer!</p> <p><b>The MS Argyll-Snowdrop Give Back Group</b> in Lochgilphead continue to work with Adult Learning to achieve their SQA Volunteer Award Level 4. All attending have long-term health conditions and volunteer in various capacities. The group work to improve their learning, core skills alongside their wellbeing as they connect and support each other on their journey and volunteer as part of the Adult Learning Give Back group.</p>
<b>Digital Skills</b>	<p>The Mid Argyll Learning Hub continues to support people to develop their digital skills. Individuals attend on a drop-in basis and we also have regular learners receiving 1:1 support from the Adult Learning Worker and Digital Skills Volunteer. We still aim to start up a digital skills course/group as soon as time allows us and we have identified learners</p>
<b>Your Voice</b>	<p><b>Community Centre Garden project-</b> MA Adult Learning had spent a significant amount of time over autumn and early 2024 consulting with learners, community and working in partnership with the After School Club and Library in order to develop the community centre space into a shared garden. This is now on hold due the Community Centre roof repair making the space unsafe at present. The aim is to pick up where we left off as soon as the space is deemed safe again!</p> <p><b>LGBTQ+-</b> MA Adult Learning is working in partnership with area wide colleagues from both Youth Services and Adult Learning to plan, organise and deliver our second LGBTQ+ community engagement event with Oban Pride. With a very successful event in Mid Argyll last summer our second is being held in Kintyre this year. The event encourages young people, families and adults to attend to learn, connect and celebrate, and also provides a great</p>

	opportunity for community voices to be heard on the subject, engagement and consultation
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#### **KINTRYE ADULT LEARNING**

A celebration of Adult Learning is being held in the Inverary Inn on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May from 11 am – 3 pm.

Free transport and lunch are provided.

The day aims to celebrate and acknowledge the efforts and accomplishments of our adult learners whilst creating the opportunity for them to connect with learners from other areas and share experiences. Celebrating the achievements of adult learners in Argyll and Bute will create a supportive and encouraging environment that promotes lifelong learning and we hope this event will encourage our learners to become part of the Argyll and Bute Wide Adult Learning Forum.

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## liveArgyll Community Learning Team

### Kintyre Youth Work - May Update 2024



#### Action Group Youth Led Service Work

##### Kintyre Youth Action Group

The Kintyre LiveArgyll Youth Work Service facilitates weekly meetings with the Kintyre Youth Action Group (based in Campbeltown and Tarbert). The Action Group carry out local community projects and regularly volunteer and represent young people's views in the area by carrying out weekly meetings which involve regular focus groups and large scale youth consultations on a two yearly basis. The input from the Action Group ensures the local youth work service is entirely youth led by focussing on local youth views, issues and areas the young people would like to develop. Action Group members will hopefully be in attendance and provide a verbal update on their activities/focuses during the meeting.

#### Recently Completed

##### Friday Night 'Street Sports' Project

The second annual Friday Night 'Street Sports' Project at the Aqualibrium All Weather Pitch in Campbeltown was completed recently. This project provided a useful transitions project for P7 pupils about to move up to the Grammar by allowing them to engage in positive healthy mixed sports activities with S1 – S2 pupils and staff from various supporting organisations. Delivered in partnership with South Kintyre Active Schools, this programme was also supported by The Hub, CGS, KADAS, Police Scotland, and others who provided delivery support and allowed young people to engage with a number of services to make them more accessible and develop relationship building opportunities with young people in the local area. This time the young people took part in football, touch rugby, bowling, golf, boxing, swimming, rounders, and other activities. Continued engagement in these positive behaviours was encouraged with young people who completed the programme earning themselves a day trip to Glasgow on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April to take part in fun activities such as trampolining and laser tag. Feedback on the programme from young people and parents/guardians below:

#### Feedback From Young People (42 of the 50 who took part)

Outcome	Yes
Physically fitter and healthier than before	32
Feel more positive about my mental health than before	31
Feel more confident in myself than before	32
Better able to try new things than before	33
Better able to make new friends than before	30
Improved my core skills (e.g. communication/teamwork)	36

Know more trusted adults I can speak to if I need support	39
Feel more connected and part of my community than before	36
More likely to take part in positive activities than before	36
Better able to make positive choices and less likely to engage in negative behaviours than before	31

### **Feedback From Parents/Guardians (9 responses in total)**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Had a positive enjoyable experience	9
Physically fitter and healthier than before	5
Feel more positive about my young person's mental health than before	3
Feel more confident in themself than before	6
Better able to try new things than before	7
Better able to make new friends than before	4
Improved my core skills (e.g. communication/teamwork)	2
Know more trusted adults they can speak to if they need support	8
More likely to take part in positive activities than before	5
Better able to make positive choices and less likely to engage in negative behaviours than before	4



### **Kintyre Youth Filmmaking Project**

Another recently completed project was our Youth Filmmaking Project. Funded by the Campbeltown Community Windfarm Fund (CCWF), this project was delivered by experienced filmmaker Alasdair Satchel and the young people learned about and practiced film composition, continuity shots, editing, narrative development/story telling, stop motion animation, conveying emotions, sensory exploration, and many other elements of film-making to create their own short films. We are currently exploring an extension project for the young people to continue their creativity, whilst also getting ready to see their creations on the big screen at Campbeltown Picture House. Feedback from the young participants below:

**Feedback from Young People (10 of the 13 who took part)**

Outcome	Yes
I enjoyed the programme – it was fun	10
Creative expression supports my mental health	7
Improved confidence and self-esteem	8
More motivated to pursue film-making as a regular pastime	10
Better able to try new things	9
Better able to make new friends	9
Improved core skills (e.g. communication/team work etc)	9
Better able to spend my free time positively	9
Feel more positive about my learning	9
Understand my progress through the programme	10

**Easter 'GIVE' Programme**

Kintyre Youth Action Group members have just completed their Easter 'GIVE' youth volunteering activities. In both Campbeltown and Tarbert, the group completed litter picks, made foodbank donations, and hosted activities for elderly residents of local care homes/sheltered housing complexes. For their hard work, the group then went on a day trip to Glasgow where they took part in trampolining, Climbzone, and shopping at Braehead.

**Recently Started Projects****Campbeltown Grammar School – Dynamic Youth Awards**

Many students in Campbeltown Grammar School are currently being supported to complete Dynamic Youth Award's for a variety of learning experiences, including all the S1's and S2's completing them for their outdoor learning activities, as well as other students completing them for other learning achievements. This provides young people with an opportunity to achieve accreditation for learning achievements

out with the mainstream curriculum and includes work with young people who are currently struggling to access mainstream learning.

### Regular Ongoing Projects

- Music Group
- Writing Group
- Inclusion Group
- MSYP Support

### Upcoming Projects before the Next CPP Meeting

- Rainbowfest – annual LGBTQ+ (diversity and inclusion) celebration event at the Victoria Hall (Campbeltown) on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June
- Campbeltown Skateboarding Project
- Weekend Intervention Project
- Other projects – to be determined by the Action Group and other local young people in response to youth views and issues.





## **Alasdair Paisley MSYP - Update April 2024**

### **MSYP Training**

Over the course of the last two months, I have been completing training for my new role as MSYP for Argyll and Bute. I have been completing online training with the Scottish Youth Parliament and I also attended a two-day training course in Helensburgh delivered by our liveArgyll support workers.

### **SYP National Campaigns**

The SYP National Campaigns are areas of focus for this year's SYP Manifesto, and MSYPs consult with young people in order to vote on what National campaigns to focus on. Me and my colleagues consulted with seventy-one young people using an online survey and we found that the top three choices for young people in Argyll and Bute was to increase mental health training, end gender based violence and, finally, improving hate crime law. This is what we voted for on their behalf.

### **Next Steps**

Next, I will attend the SYP's first Annual Sitting of the year in order to further develop my understanding of this role. This will be in Stirling on the 22nd to 23rd of June. Over the next few months I will consult with as many young people across Argyll and Bute in order to fully represent their views to decision-makers.

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# SOUTH ISLAY NEWS

April 2024

## ***The Ardbeg All Islay Fund Year Two - 31 Applications Received -***

Ardbeg Islay single malt Scotch whisky established a £ 1 million to support community and environmental projects on Islay. Working in cooperation South Islay Development (SID) and Ardbeg were delighted to open the Ardbeg All Islay Fund Year Two on the 8th of January 2024 inviting applications from groups and projects across the island. The fund will run over 5 years with £180,000 per year to be allocated and distributed.

Drop-in sessions were held in Port Ellen and Bowmore for the SID team to meet the community groups and allow them to ask questions and become more informed about the funding application process.

SID has been delighted by the enthusiastic interest in the fund as year two opens up. The drop-in sessions have proved very useful for groups to ask the SID team for advice, and guidance on their applications before they submit.

By the deadline on the 13th of March, there were 31 completed applications received from projects spanning the whole of Islay. All applicants have had acknowledgements of their applications.

Now the hard work starts behind the scenes! All applications are being reviewed to ensure all the attachments have been submitted by the SID staff who will then send all the documents to the independent panel. The panel meetings will be held at the end of April.

**The successful applicants will be informed by the beginning of May at the earliest.**

Thanks for all the interest and support – this is a very exciting fund which will allow many organisations to fulfil their ambitions for a wonderful community to flourish and prosper.

We will continue regular updates as the Ardbeg All Islay Fund progresses.



# Port Ellen Playing Fields Update

**The New Pavilion:** SID are delighted that the timber kit for the new Pavilion is now up, with the internal walls and roof trusses being finalised. The block work and roof will follow.



**The Playpark:** The design team and Procast have put together an additional surface water drainage plan, to reduce potential for flooding. It is extremely important this is right before the kit is installed, but it does mean progress has been slower than expected. Two new items of kit have been delivered. Chosen by Port Ellen Mothers & Toddlers these will compliment the existing kit. The playpark area will be extended up towards the Ramsay Hall to allow for more new items in the future.



**The Motorhome Area:** Now that the timber kit has been moved, this area is clear for progress to continue. The foundations for the WC/ Shower are progressing, while work is ongoing resurfacing the area, and joining the old and new sections together.



**Programme:** The new Pavilion is due to be completed in Summer 2024; however SID will look to reopen parts of the site as and when the works are completed.

Elsewhere on the Playing Fields there are plans to revamp the existing shed with a new roof and doors, redo the drainage ditch at the back of the pitch, create new areas of planting (trees, flowering shrubs and bulbs), and fix the tennis court fencing and net. Watch this space!



For any questions regarding the Playing Fields progress contact Rosie at [portellenplayingfields@gmail.com](mailto:portellenplayingfields@gmail.com)





# PORT ELLEN FILLING STATION

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The Ramsay Hall  
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For More Information contact Danielle -  
[sidcommunityengagement@gmail.com](mailto:sidcommunityengagement@gmail.com)  
or Call 01496 300 579

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# **FUEL - PARTS - CONFECTIONARY - MOTORHOME SERVICES -**

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**Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group****1<sup>st</sup> May 2024****Caledonian MacBrayne Update – Update on Works at Kennacraig**

Kennacraig works are progressing well with wall construction, fendering and dredging works on the south berth are taking place concurrently. There is a short pause of dredging works due to the change of plan from land disposal of dredge material to sea disposal. Nevertheless, the works are currently ahead of programme and this has been mainly achieved through there being less requirement to drill intermediate sockets on the South Berth and also by installing the permanent tubes concurrently with the drilling operations.

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