



1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report summarises progress which has been made by partners in delivering the agreed Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Local Area Community Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Local Area Community Planning Group note the progress which has been made by partners in financial year 2010/11 in delivering the agreed Local Community Plan for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands, and consider whether any amendments to the plan may be required. A revised scorecard which reflects the plan, as amended if necessary, will be submitted for consideration at the May LACPG meeting.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** Group members and partners on the MAKI Local Area Community Planning Group agreed an action plan for delivery, which highlights agreed aims and objectives for the area, as developed in line with the CPP's Single Outcome Agreement, and following community consultation at the first Forward Together Event held in June 2010. Since the agreement of the plan, in summer 2010, partners and lead organisations have been expected to deliver the actions assigned to them through that agreement process.
- 3.2** Appendix 1 contains the most recent updates for the action plan, which have been gathered from partners during February 2011. It shows progress to date, and also highlights current risks to completion of key aims and actions.
- 3.3** Group members will recall that as part of the Forward Together 2 Event held in October 2010, attendees were asked to identify local priorities which they felt should be increased or built upon, priorities which should be maintained, those which could be reduced, and those which could be stopped all together. This work was carried out in light of the financial situation which public sector

organisations expected to take effect from April 2011.

To summarise the outcomes of that event, the following points should be noted.

There is nothing to suggest that there is opposition to anything in the plan; there appears to be tacit agreement with the direction that the plan is taking.

No comments explicitly referred to the outcomes of the plan, rather comments were focused on actions contained within the plan, and their associated success measures and things that could have been included in the plan as actions, but were not.

There were far fewer suggestions for things we could do less of or stop doing altogether than there were suggestions for things we should do more of or carry on doing.

Where suggestions were made under the 'do less of' / 'stop' headings, they related weakly to the plan, making general rather than plan-specific points. Moreover, where suggestions could be related to specific actions, these actions had been highlighted elsewhere (and in greater numbers) as areas for continued or increased levels of activity.

On the basis of the electronic voting, one area stands out as an obvious priority: affordable housing. Integrated transport was also identified as another priority area. Although there were fewer votes for integrated transport than for affordable housing, transport provoked a lot more comment within the workshops.

Again, on the basis of the voting patterns, areas identified for continued action at present levels were:

- The A83
- Air ambulance
- Support for tourism.

However, the range of comments made during the workshops and on the post-it notes suggest that all areas of activity in the plan have their advocates, so no clear message can be formulated with regard to priority areas.

As with other areas, far fewer comments were made with regard to areas of activity that could be reduced or stopped. Moreover, where comments were made, there was either:

- No relationship to actions in the plan, or
- More support for continued activity in areas mentioned than there was for reduced activity.

For example, of the five suggestions for things that could be stopped, only one related to an action in the plan. Moreover, this related to the Kintyre Centre of Renewables, which had prompted a number of comments elsewhere, supporting its continuation.

Similarly, three suggestions were made regarding activities that might be continued but at a reduced level:

- Business development
- Waterfront and town centre development
- Duplication in social services.

However, only the first two of these related to plan actions, and in both cases there were more comments advocating their continuation than their reduction.

There was only one action in the plan that was not covered in the workshop discussions. This was:

- 'Ensure that partnership working is undertaken to taken environmental issues such as fly tipping, litter, dog fouling and noise pollution'.

Two other actions did not generate specific comments, although in both cases they can be related to broader supportive comments or suggestions for how things could be done differently. These were:

- 'Retention and development strategy being developed by Strathclyde Police to recruit officer from the local area to serve within Campbeltown'.

This prompted a suggestion that perhaps the police could look at recruiting 'cadets' in a similar fashion to the way the fire service does.

- 'Support service level agreements for Kilmartin and Auchindrain Museums and Ionad Chialum Chile Ile'.

Although no comments related directly to these organisations, the general comment that support should be given to support tourism could be interpreted as being generally supportive to museums.

There were few issues raised at the MAKI event that were completely at variance with the plan's contents. These included:

- Comments about the desirability of the police and fire services sharing office facilities, sharing responsibilities for first response to incidents, and the closure of underused police stations
- The desirability of developing ferry and cultural links with Northern Ireland
- The need to provide more higher level education, in order to encourage people to stay in the area.
- Additional locations for affordable housing were mentioned (e.g. Lochgilphead High School site; Port Ellen)
- The action 'Support and facilitate, where appropriate, community led strategic planning for defined areas', where

the success measures made explicit reference to the Tarbert, Gigha and Jura Community Plans, also provoked comments. South Kintyre, Campbeltown, Ardrishaig and Ardfern were also mentioned as areas where such plans are being developed.

- There did not seem to be any reluctance in general to local groups being encouraged to manage things, but the ideas seemed to vary with regard to the kind of facilities they should be managing. Halls were mentioned in this context.
- Where mention was made of supporting events, event participants added to the list of events that could be covered.

The nature of these gaps suggests that either:

- The contents of the plan needs to be changed to reflect the range of locations measured, or
- The idea that the contents of the plan will change over time as specific projects are completed, so if a specific location is not included in the current plan, that does not preclude its inclusion in future years. This requires the management of participants' expectations.

In light of these comments, and the comments made across Argyll and Bute in response to the Council's budget consultation exercise, group Members may wish to consider whether any amendments to the currently agreed plan are required.

Following discussion and any amendment of this plan, it is intended that a revised Scorecard, which reflects the agreed Local Community Plan, and will enable the group to carry out ongoing effective scrutiny of local performance against agreed outcomes, will be discussed at the May LACPG meeting.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** There has been some progress by partners in delivering the agreed actions and outcomes of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Local Community Plan, and this information is for noting. Following comments made at more recent consultation events partners may deem it necessary to amend the current plan to allow for effective delivery of local priorities in light of the current financial climate. A revised Scorecard will enable the group to carry out regular scrutiny of local performance against agreed outcomes.

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