

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN REFRESH 2013-2018

1. SUMMARY OF ISSUES

- 1.1** The purpose of this paper is to seek approval from the Council to establish a Short Life Working Group to take forward the development and preparation of a refreshed Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP), 2013-2018. The five-year timescale has been selected to align the EDAP with the Local Development Plan.
- 1.2** As considered during the development of the current EDAP, 2010-2013, there will be a need to focus the Council's resources on the economic development activities that will have the greatest beneficial economic impact over the next five financial years. The refreshed EDAP will clearly articulate the Council's corporate priorities for developing the Argyll and Bute economy, thereby facilitating focus, effective resource planning and partnership working at the local, national and European levels.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Council:

- approves the establishment of a Short Life Working Group; and
- determines the membership of the Short Life Working Group.

3. SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP

- 3.1** A Short Life Working Group will oversee the development and preparation of the refreshed EDAP.
- 3.2** The Short Life Working Group will be supported by officers from Development and Infrastructure and by Strategic Finance representation.
- 3.3** By the end of the calendar year, with the inclusion of comments from other key public sector partners and the private sector, a presentation and discussion session on the re-draft EDAP will be undertaken with each of the four Area Community Planning Groups. The Community Planning Partnership Management Committee will also be consulted; as will be the Budget Working Group. Further to the collation and inclusion of comments, as appropriate, a final draft of the refreshed EDAP, 2013-2018 will be prepared to go to the full Council in January 2013 for approval. This timeframe allows for further considerations and comments to be included in the refreshed EDAP prior to the 'go live' date of the 1st April 2013.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** Approval is sought from the Council for the establishment of a Short Life Working Group for the preparation and delivery of the EDAP refresh 2013-2018.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The implications for Argyll and Bute Council are as outlined in **Table 5.1** below.

Table 5.1: Implications for Argyll and Bute Council	
Policy	The refreshed EDAP will align and adhere, as appropriate, to Scottish Government, UK Government and European policies, with a particular focus on the European priorities contained in the EU 2020 Strategy.
Financial	The EDAP will ensure that Argyll and Bute Council's resources are allocated efficiently and effectively with regard to the Council's economic development priorities and ambitions.
Legal	All legal implications at project level will be taken into consideration.
HR	The required resources, in terms of staff time will be articulated as appropriate under each priority within the Council's internal version of the refreshed EDAP.
Equalities	The EDAP will comply with all Equal Opportunities policies and obligations.
Risk	If the current EDAP is not refreshed then there will be no clear focus on or understanding of the economic development activities, and the associated resources, that will have the greatest beneficial economic impact for the area over the next five financial years.
Customer Service	The refreshed EDAP will provide internal and external customers will a clear articulation of the Council's corporate priorities for developing the Argyll and Bute economy, thereby facilitating focus, effective resource planning and partnership working at the local, national and European levels.

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