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Working with communities to improve the quality of life for all in Argyll and Bute

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11 September 2012

**OBAN LORN & THE ISLES COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP - WEDNESDAY, 12
SEPTEMBER 2012
MCCAIG SUITE, CORRAN HALLS, OBAN on at 2:00 PM.**

I enclosed herewith items on the Agenda for the above meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

- 5. UPDATE ON BIDS4OBAN**
Bids4Oban - Pauline Cameron (Pages 1 - 2)

- 9. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVENTS AND FESTIVALS**
Argyll & Bute Council - Laura Macdonald, Community & Culture
(Pages 3 - 4)

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Proposed Oban Business Improvement District



Report to: Oban Lorn & the Isles Community Planning Group

From: Councillors Fred Hall and Duncan McIntyre, BID4Oban Steering Group

Date: 23 September 2012

Subject: Progress Report on development of Business Improvement District

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a brief overview of activities undertaken in developing a business improvement district for Oban in the past 6 months.
- 1.2 All activities to August 2012 have been focused on developing a comprehensive BID Proposal which reflects the priorities of local business and meets the legislative requirements of the Planning etc. Scotland Act 2006 'Business Improvement Districts (Scotland) Regulations 2007.
- 1.3 The focus of the BID4Oban Steering Group is now on campaigning for a Yes vote at ballot, and putting in place mechanisms for the operation of the new BID Company from 31 October 2012 which would be formed following a successful ballot.

2. BID Priorities

- 2.1 The consultation process revealed several clear priorities which emerged as 6 key objectives for a future BID:
 - Making the best first impression
 - Let's shout about what's happening in Oban (marketing and events)
 - Extend the season
 - Making Oban the place to stay, explore and spend
 - Working together for a more prosperous future
 - Making our town easier to visit
- 2.2 A series of over 20 project commitments are contained within these objectives, having been developed by a business planning group of local business owners.
- 2.3 Discussion with the Director of Development and Infrastructure and approval by a meeting of full Council on 28 June 2012 reached agreement on a financial

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Proposed Oban Business Improvement District



contribution of £100,00 from the Council towards agreed project activities over 5 years. These activities complement Council strategy and actions. In addition a further £81,000 of in kind support from the Council was agreed in support of project delivery.

3. Project Timetable

Timescale	Project Activities
March – May 2012	Development and agreement of Business Plan projects based on business consultation findings, and working in partnership with Argyll & Bute Council Development and Infrastructure.
June 2012	Confirming financial contribution of Argyll & Bute Council following local elections. Agreement to ballot timetable with Returning Officer Operating Agreement on collection of levy agreed with Council Working to define database of voters (for nationals companies)
July 2012	Confirmation of intention not to veto BID Proposal from Council, following comments received from Scottish Government
August 2012	Business Plan printed Database of voters finalised Ballot packs distributed by Returning Officer on 24 August.
25 August – 5 October 2012	6 week campaign period in which businesses encouraged to return their completed voting papers.
5 October	Ballot count: result announced
	ON SUCCESSFUL BALLOT
31 October 2012	BID Company begins operation for 5 year period.

4. Finances

At end August 2012 a total of £11,217 was held by the BID Steering Group which, together with a further grant for interim funding from the Oban Common Good Fund of £3,000 will meet the following costs to 31 October 2012 when the BID company will commence:

- Conducting the campaign and ensuring all eligible businesses are aware and have an opportunity to vote: a key business event (12 September); advertising and mailing further information to all businesses voting),
- Conducting the ballot (for incurs a charge by the Returning Officer of the Council),
- Setting up the BID Company following a successful ballot: staff recruitment to paid positions; process for appointment of volunteer on-executive Board of Directors (appointed through nomination, or election if contested); operational arrangements.

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OLI LACPG
September 2012

Report on Support available from Argyll and Bute Council for Events and Festivals

1 SUMMARY

1.1 This report outlines a range of support available for events and festivals in Argyll and Bute including the Third Sector Grants, other Council funding and resources, and external funding opportunities.

2 RECOMENDATIONS

2.1 That LACPG members note the support available for events and festivals from the Council.

3 DETAIL

3.1 The Council operates a Third Sector Grants Scheme which consists of £35,000 for each administrative area. Within that, £15,000 is earmarked for events and festivals in each area, giving a total sum of £60,000 across the Council area.

3.2 The Community and Culture service has a Strategic Events & Festivals Programme which outlines a three year plan to support large scale events and festivals. This is designed to maximise economic benefit to the area through increased cultural tourism and in Oban, Lorn and the Isles includes support to West Highland Yachting Week, the Argyllshire Gathering, Tiree Wave Classic and the Camanachd Cup Final. The Royal National Mod and Cowal Gathering receive mainstream revenue funding – the Fleming Case VAT windfall has been allocated to the rest of this programme to provide large events with core revenue funding support for a 3 year period.

3.3 The Council is a member of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Event Safety Team which includes Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Scottish Ambulance Service, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and other co-opted members as appropriate to events e.g Red Cross, WRVS. The team was set up to provide a one-stop shop for organisers where advice and assistance is available to help make sure events run smoothly and safely. The services of the event safety team are free of charge. The team apply the HSE publications HSG195 “The Event Safety Guide” and HSG154 “Managing Crowds Safely”.

3.4 The Council also invests staff time and/or funding into other events and festivals through departmental budgets which meet service objectives e.g. Leisure services staff support the Oban and Lorn Sports Festival, Library services supported the Italia ‘n’ Caledonia events etc.

3.5 Many events and festivals also access additional external funding and sponsorship, and the Council has a role in signposting organisations to appropriate

funding streams. The Council's Social Enterprise Team operates a Funding Alert newsletter which outlines up and coming grant streams and their closing dates.

3.6 The Council's website Funding page <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/grants-and-funding> contains a link to the Grantnet database which allows organisations to search for appropriate funders, as well as a range of materials produced by the Social Enterprise Team, including a 57 page Festival and Events sheet which contains comprehensive external funding information.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 Argyll and Bute Council is aware of the impact and benefits that Events and Festivals bring to our area and provides a range of services to support their development be it through funding or the input of staff and other resources.