

Public Document Pack

Argyll and Bute Council Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal Agus Bhòid

Customer Services
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8 December 2016

SUPPLEMENTARY PACK 1

**SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP ON POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS -
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD on MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2016 at
2:00 PM**

I enclose herewith **item5 (Community Engagement and Localism)** which was marked to follow on the Agenda for the above meeting.

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director of Customer Services

ITEM TO FOLLOW

- 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LOCALISM** (Pages 1 - 4)
Report by Executive Director of Community Services

SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP ON POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Rory Colville
Councillor Anne Horn
Councillor Aileen Morton
Councillor James Robb
Councillor Len Scoullar
Councillor Richard Trail

Councillor Robin Currie
Councillor Roderick McCuish
Councillor Ellen Morton
Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor Dick Walsh (Chair)

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**COMMUNITY SERVICES****12 DECEMBER 2016**

LOCALISM

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Community Empowerment is ever increasing on the agenda today, with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act published in 2015 and the Programme for Government 2016 both setting a vision for councils to engage, involve and empower citizens. Locality planning is a key expectation of Community Planning, requiring plans at a 'locality' level to address challenges and reduce inequality.
- 1.2 The strengths of Argyll and Bute's communities and the growing strength of the Community Planning Partnership can be built upon to address locality planning and support empowerment in a context of limited resources.
- 1.3 This paper is intended to frame a discussion for consideration of supporting localism; building on the community action planning work that exists and connecting this to area community planning groups to manage expectations, ensure the most vulnerable communities are supported, increase resilience and harvest the talent and potential in our communities in a positive way. These proposals support whatever decisions the Council will take in relation to its review of political management arrangements and decision making/ governance structures.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Consider the report, the development of community action planning and the community planning model to enhance localism, meet the expected requirements of the Localism Bill and fit with the future governance arrangements of the Council.

3.0 DETAIL

Community Action Planning

- 3.1 Community Action Plans are community led action plans with a locality focus. The approach to localism around community action planning does not require direct intensive support from the council to work effectively. They are generally very local in nature and reflect identifiable, natural communities.
- 3.2 There are many communities across Argyll and Bute who have and are undertaking significant work led solely by the community itself or in conjunction with a range of partner organisations including the council. Twenty-seven communities have already produced Community Action Plans or been through a charrette process, and five further communities are in the process of this.
- 3.3 In developing community action planning a toolkit is being produced to support communities develop their own community action plans. This is based on best practice and experience of communities in Argyll and Bute, and will encourage self-sustaining funding models. The community action planning toolkit will be launched with high profile events and training in 2017.
- 3.4 Experience from other parts of Scotland suggest this approach develops significant community led capacity and is framed as self sustaining and not reliant on council or other community planning partner funding. Indeed, a fundamental premise of the plans in those areas is that they should not be a list of “asks” for resources from the council but that the solutions are for the communities themselves to develop.
- 3.5 The experience of other areas is that the themes arising from the community led plans feed up into the area community planning structures and through the outcome leads to the community planning partnership management committee to influence the development of the LOIP and the delivery plans that sit underneath it. This appears to have worked well as a structure elsewhere.
- 3.6 A further development would be to identify a 3rd or above manager in the council as a link officer to each of the community led action planning groups with whom they could have an engagement approximately quarterly or twice yearly but who could help direct the group to navigate through the council and community planning partners on an irregular basis as issues arise or they require advice. This would break down the barrier to engagement with the council and improve the council’s reputation for openness and willingness to work with community organisations. There would obviously need to be clearly set expectations on that engagement and some training for managers but the benefits reputationally and in terms of community group effectiveness would be clear.
- 3.7 The bottom up approach outlined above would also be able to connect in with any decisions taken by council on its governance model and structures and would not constrain any of these decisions.

Area Community Planning Groups

- 3.8 Area Community Planning Groups consist of partners, community council representatives and representatives from community groups. They exist to raise local issues important to the overall agreement outcome, to increase the economy and population, and seek to deal with these at a local partnership level. Their development in the past two years has seen increased community involvement and stronger links with high level community planning groups.
- 3.9 This working model consisting of community issues discussed with partners at community level, and raised to a management committee for further consideration when required, is working very well for all involved. The Area Community Planning Group can be developed to pick up challenges in delivering the community action plans and support the community to overcome these.
- 3.10 There is potential to also support the locality planning requirement of the Community Empowerment Act. The Area Community Planning Group, with local data and knowledge, can assess where there are communities experiencing poorer outcomes and arrange for these to receive focused support for developing a community action plan/ locality plan to address inequalities.
- 3.11 A named individual from within the Area Community Planning Group would be responsible to raise queries and matters of importance to the Community Planning Management Committee.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Council must meet requirements to empower communities and develop local plans fit for purpose ensuring these are linked to the overall need in Argyll and Bute to grow the population and the economy.
- 4.2 Supporting communities to support themselves through the promotion, development and adoption of community action plans is a key way in which to empower communities and builds on great examples that exist in Argyll and Bute.
- 4.3 Area Community Planning Groups have a key role to support the development of community action plans for the most vulnerable communities and provide a forum for resolving any matters raised for existing community action plans if required.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy — The Community Action Planning Toolkit meets the policy intent of the Scottish Government on developing localism; Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.
- 5.2 Financial —
- 5.3 Legal – the programme should deliver where possible the Council's legislative duties within the Community Empowerment Act 2014.
- 5.4 HR - none envisaged at this time.

- 5.5 Equalities – all community action plans should be inclusive and reflect the diversity of each community. An equality impact assessment would be unlikely to be required however a statement on equalities would be helpful.
- 5.6 Risk –
- 5.7 Customer Service –

Cleland Sneddon Chief Executive

For more information please contact Rona Gold, rona.gold@argyll-bute.gov.uk

12 December 2016