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1 February 2023

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **OBAN LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP** will be held by **TEAMS** on **WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2023** at **6:30 PM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director

BUSINESS

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 14)

Oban Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group Minutes of meeting 9 November 2022.

4. GOVERNANCE

- (a) Area Community Planning Group Governance Arrangements (Pages 15 - 26)

Report by Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council

- (b) Appointment of Chair to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group (Pages 27 - 28)

Report by Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council

5. PARTNER UPDATE

- (a) Scottish Fire & Rescue (Pages 29 - 34)
- (b) Police Scotland (Pages 35 - 38)
- (c) Public Health (Pages 39 - 42)
- (d) Living Well Network (Pages 43 - 44)
- (e) Community Learning Services - Live Argyll (Pages 45 - 46)
- (f) Oban Community Harbour Development Association (Pages 47 - 48)
- (g) Department of Works and Pensions (Pages 49 - 56)
- (h) Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau (Pages 57 - 58)
- (i) Community Contacts - Carr Gomm (Pages 59 - 60)
- (j) North Argyll Carers Centre (Pages 61 - 62)
- (k) Argyll and Bute TSI (Pages 63 - 66)
- (l) Opportunity for verbal updates by Community Planning Partners

6. CLIMATE CHANGE

- (a) Report by Chair of Climate Change Working Group (Pages 67 - 68)
- (b) Home Energy Efficiency

Presentation by Jackie Westerman, Project Officer of Home Energy Efficiency Project (HEEPs)

- (c) Allenergy

Presentation by Dr Lynda Mitchell, Manager Allenergy

- (d) Forestry and Land Scotland

Presentation by Robbie Layden

7. COMMUNITY FOCUS

- (a) Sustaining Choices - Active Travel Plan Oban (Pages 69 - 100)

Report by Isla McCulloch, Sustaining Choices

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (Pages 101 - 104)

Report by Committee Manager

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 10 MAY 2023

Kevin Champion (Chair)

Ryan MacIntyre (Vice Chair)

Contact: Stuart Mclean, Committee Manager - 01436 658717

Karen Campbell, Senior Committee Assistant – 01631 567855

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**MINUTES of MEETING of OBAN LORN & THE ISLES COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP held
by MICROSOFT TEAMS
on WEDNESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2022**

Present: Kevin Champion (Chair)
Councillor Kieron Green, Argyll and Bute Council
Joan Best, Crossroads
Jen Broadhurst, Citizens Advice Bureau
Laura Corbe, Climate Change
Samantha Campbell, NHS
PC Laura Evans, Police Scotland
Carol Flett, Living Well Network (Islands)
Rhona Grant, Community Learning Development, Live Argyll
Mairi Harrower, Oban and District Access Panel
Becky Hothersall, Community Development Argyll and Bute Council
Robert Kincaid, Oban Community Harbour Development Association
Marri Malloy, Oban Community Council
Duncan Martin, Oban Community Council
Michelle Mundie, Chief Executive Argyll Housing Community Association Ltd
Petra Pearce, Third Sector Interface
Marie Stonehouse, Scottish Communities Climate Action Network
Robert Taylor, Scottish Fire and Rescue
Lauren Worrell, National Farmers Union

Attending: Jim Tolmie, Oban and District Access Panel
Aideen Shields, Isle of Kerrera Development Trust
Jane Metcalf, Isle of Kerrera Development Trust
Emma Sutcliffe, Dunollie Museum and Garden Grounds
Laura Bennett, Time for Change Argyll and Bute
Robert Beauchamp, CEBR

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone and outlined the procedure for the meeting.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:

Iain Hutchison, Police Scotland;
Fergus Murray, Argyll and Bute Council;
Emma Clark, Wild About Argyll;
Dr Lynda Mitchell, Allenergy;
Susan MacRae, Skills Development Scotland;
Ali Martin, MECCOP;
Seonaid Cameron, Argyll Housing Community Association Ltd;
Gordon Boyle, Scottish Fire and Rescue;
Theresa Bain, University of Highland and Islands, Argyll; and
Judith Hawcroft, North Argyll Carers
Catriona Petit, New Hope Kitchen

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

(a) **Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group 17 August 2022**

The minutes of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group meeting held on Wednesday, 17 August 2022 were approved as a correct record.

4. **OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP - GOVERNANCE**

The group gave consideration to a report which sought the appointment of Ryan MacIntyre, Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament, (MYSP) to its membership and the appointment to the position of Vice-Chair for the Oban, Lorn & The Isles Area Community Planning Group.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group:

1. agreed to include Ryan MacIntyre MSYP to the membership of the Group;
2. noted that the membership in its entirety, and the Terms of Reference would be considered at the next meeting; and
3. appointed Ryan Macintyre MSYP as Vice Chair.

The Group agreed to a variation in the order of business to facilitate partner attendance, these minutes reflect the order that items were considered.

5. **COMMUNITY FOCUS**

Update from Isle of Kerrera Development Trust

Aideen Shields gave a presentation on the projects that the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust are involved with. Aideen advised that the Development Trust have made tremendous progress with key projects recently with Islanders being delighted at the completion of the north/south road, which enables residents to safely access the lifeline ferry.

Aideen advised that a funding package has recently been secured to commence on the final phase of renovation to the Old School, due to open as a community hub in summer 2023. The Development Trust are aspiring to undertake further projects such as:

- Council adopted road improvements.

- Road adoption of the new north/south road.
- Bigger ferry with more capacity for people/vehicles.
- Improved ferry timetable.
- Introduction of a functional bus service that links to the ferry timetable.
- Improved car parking and road safety at Gallanach ferry terminal.
- Successful and sustainable operational community facility at the Old School.
- Enhanced visitor experience- toilets, heritage exhibition, ebike hire.
- Programme of community activities.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group commended the work being undertaken by the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust and noted the information provided.

6. PARTNERS UPDATE

(a) Scottish Fire and Rescue Update

The Group considered a report highlighting the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) FQ2 review of local performance across Oban, Lorn and the Isles for the period 2022-23. The report included information on the local firefighter training plan, incidents during this time period and recent community engagement activities. It has also been a busy period with bonfires and fireworks, advice has been given to local communities and schools.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

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

(b) Third Sector Interface - Argyll and Bute Community Directory

The group gave consideration to a written update which has been provided by Petra Pearce of Argyll Third Sector Interface.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Argyll TSI, submitted)

(c) **Argyll & Bute Health and Social Care Partnership Update**

The Group considered a public health update from Samantha Campbell, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership. The update highlighted information on the Public Health Team Annual Report for 2021-22 and the Mid Strategy Living Well Report for 2019-21.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles 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)

(d) **Oban Access Panel - Braille labelling statutorily introduced onto foodstuffs**

Jim Tolmie introduced the campaign of getting basic braille onto the labels of foodstuffs on behalf of the Oban and District Access Panel. Jim advised that a flyer has been produced to highlight the campaign and that they have been working with Disability Quality Scotland and Sight Scotland. While support has been given by Holyrood to this initiative the labelling of foodstuffs must go to the Food Standards Agency in Aberdeen for agreement.

Marie Harrower explained to the group how difficult it is for poor sighted and non-sighted people to access the correct foodstuffs. Although most items have a QR Code they can be difficult to find and you also need equipment, where it would be easier if braille was added to the label of foodstuff. Marie advised that a national supermarket has already added braille to their own brand products which is excellent, the campaign has moved quickly over the past year and the more people that are aware of it the better.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Group noted, considered and commended the update.

(Reference, Promotional Flyer presented by Oban Access Panel, submitted)

(e) **Oban Community Harbour Development Association (OCHDA)**

Robert Kincaid gave a brief update on the work being undertaken by the Oban Community Harbour Development Association. Robert advised that

the Council were soon to submit a second Draft of the Harbour Order to the Scottish Government for consideration and that the Management Group still has issues concerning the consultation that had been undertaken.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group noted and considered the update.

(Reference: Report by Oban Community Harbour Development Association, submitted)

(f) **Islands Living Well Network Update (Mull and Iona, Tiree, Coll and Colonsay)**

The Group considered an update from the Islands Living Well Network presented by Carol Flett. Carol advised that Kirsty McLuckie was leaving her post at the Oban Youth Café and her role as the Coordinator for Oban and Lorn Living Well Network and that she would be covering the Oban area for the time being. Carol advised that the Network had taken out adverts in local newspapers advertising their services.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Group considered and noted the report.

(Reference. Report by Islands Living Well Network, submitted)

(g) **Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau Update**

Jen Broadhurst advised that the Citizens Advice Bureau Volunteer Adviser Training Programme recommenced in September, and they now have 5 new volunteers progressing well at this time, these trainees will start to provide advice in the spring once they have completed their training. The CAB have secured extra funding to support households across the area to access energy advice. Individuals can now access advice and support with the Money Talk Team through a dedicated website www.moneytalkteam.org.uk where they can look at options of how to maximize their household income. The date of the AGM has changed to 9th December at the Helensburgh Community Hub.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Group considered and noted the report.

(Reference: Report by Argyll and Bute Citizen Advice Bureau, submitted)

(h) **Police Scotland Update**

PC Laura Evans had technical difficulties so was unable to give an overview of the written report which she had submitted. The report within

the agenda pack highlights the Dementia Safeguarding Tag, which is due to be launched in November 2022 with support from Alzheimer Scotland. The aim of the project is to provide everyone living with Dementia a Safeguarding Tag, which is a small discreet device that can be attached to a bag or in a purse. The Tag can be tapped against any smartphone, which will then flag up the name of the person and who to contact if they are in need of assistance. Promotional flyers, information of how to get a tag and liaising with local shops and supermarkets will be cascaded in due course.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Police Scotland, submitted)

(i) **Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Update**

The group gave consideration to a written update which was provided by the Department of Work and Pensions.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Department of Work and Pensions, submitted)

(j) **Opportunity for verbal updates by Community Planning Partners
Crossroads Argyll Update**

Joan Best gave a verbal update advising that Crossroads are now supporting 67 unpaid carers, which include 4 on Seil, 8 on Mull and 1 in Appin, with referrals rising exponentially. Crossroads have now moved into their new office in Gibraltar Street, Oban with the official opening date set for the 25th November on their 20th Anniversary.

Live Argyll Community Learning Update

Rhona Grant advised that Brian Smith was no longer working with Youth Services and that a recruitment exercise was currently underway to fill this post. Rhona reported that the service has been busy with Adult Learning events moving from a Monday to a Thursday within the Oban Library with taster sessions taking place offering a selection of craft classes.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE

(a) **CPP Climate Change Working Group Highlight Report**

Consideration was given to a report which highlighted the ongoing work of the Climate Change Working Group. The report outlined the proposal to produce a strategic Action Plan as a means to address the climate emergency in Argyll and Bute; the development of governance arrangements and structures to support the Climate Change Project Officer post. Information was also provided on the funding options for the project.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the update.

(Reference: Report by Stan Phillips, Chair of the Climate Change Working Group, submitted)

(b) **Argyll and Bute Regional Engagement Co-ordinator for Scottish Communities Climate Action Network**

Marie advised that the Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCANN) is a volunteer-led network with membership open to any community group across Scotland that is taking action on the climate crisis and to any organisation that is involved with or supports such community-led action.

Marie added that funding has been secured for the next 10 years to develop networks and a Community Hub that will facilitate community groups coming together to share experiences to tackle climate change.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the update.

(c) **Time for Change**

The Group considered an update by Laura Bennitt from Time for Change Argyll and Bute. Laura advised that Time for Change is a group of residents who are campaigning to raise awareness of climate change.

Laura highlighted that as a group they are increasingly concerned with the need to build resilience in all areas and communities in Argyll and Bute. They are working with civil contingencies to identify areas and organise reliance plans. Robert from Scottish Fire and Rescue advised that the Fire Service could assist with the resilience plans.

Laura added that recently some of the elected members of the Council had undertaken Climate Change Literacy training.

Training is available online on 23rd/24th November and 1st/2nd/7th and 8th

December. Anyone interested should contact Jamie.joyce@act-now.com

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Planning Group noted and considered the information provided.

(Reference: report by Time for Change Argyll and Bute, submitted)

8. UPDATE FROM ARGYLL COMMUNITY HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Michelle Mundie introduced herself as ACHA's new chief executive and provided a verbal update highlighting some of the recent work. It was noted that ACHA had held their AGM in September where ACHA tenant Cathy Grant of Glendaruel was elected as Chair of the Association. Employee Lachlan Woods had attended the National Awards where he received the award Energy Champion of the Year, an award that covered the whole of the UK.

ACHA's investment in new housing stock saw 10 new units at Inveraray in June 2022, 4 units at Tarbert to be signed off in December, 2 new units at Millknowe which are dementia friendly to be signed off on 4th November. New developments will be coming on stream including at Dalintober and Port Ellen.

A rent consultation is about to commence and all tenants will be written to.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Group considered and noted the report.

(Reference: Presentation by, Michelle Mundie, Chief Executive of ACHA submitted)

9. CBER - THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CALMAC FERRY SERVICES - PHASE 2 REPORT

The Group considered a presentation by Robert Beachamp. It was highlighted that the Phase 2 report was a quantitative analysis of the impacts of CalMac as a company (employment, Gross Value Added, turnover, and employee compensation supported directly and through the supply chain), and of impacts of service levels on island communities (ferry users' welfare, economic activity, employment, population), based on Phase 1 findings, desk research, analysis, fieldwork and socio-economic modelling..

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Robert Beauchamp, submitted)

10. COMMUNITY FOCUS

(a) **Dunollie Museum Castle Grounds Update**

The Group received an update from Emma Sutcliffe on the progress of Dunollie Museum and Castle Grounds, highlighting that over 16,000 people had visited since April 2022, some of these visitors were able to access the first floor of Dunollie Castle following ongoing restoration works. Phase 1 of a project to install a handrail along the Dunollie Castle Path to assist visitors in climbing the steep path was recently been completed.

Emma highlighted the social impact the museum has had as well as some of the groups on offer, such as the New Routes Health and Wellbeing Group, Threads and Yarns Group and the Gaelic Language sessions which are delivered online and in partnership with the Furan Gaelic Centre.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Group considered, noted and commended the report.

(Reference: Report by Emma Sutcliffe, Dunollie Museum Castle Grounds, submitted)

11. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a briefing note which provided information on matters discussed during a meeting of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee, held on 6 October 2022.

Stuart McLean spoke to the report and highlighted updates on topics including the Cost of Living Crisis, The Child Poverty Action Plan and the CPP Annual Report.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the report.

(Reference: Report by Shona Barton, Governance Manager, submitted)

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 8 FEBRUARY 2023

The Chair thanked everyone in attendance at the meeting, and thanked all partners for their continued proactive work in the community.

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group would take place on Wednesday, 8 February 2023 at 10am.

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**Argyll and Bute Community Planning
Partnership****Oban Lorn & The Isles Area Community
Planning Group****08 February 2023**

Area Community Planning Group Governance Arrangements

Summary

The report asks the Oban Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group to review the current Terms of Reference, the membership of the Group and also asks members to note the dates for meeting up until May 2024.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to confirm the governance arrangements of the Oban Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group (Area CPG) specifically the Terms of Reference, membership and note future meeting dates.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Area CPG members are requested to:

- Consider and adopt the Terms of Reference submitted in this report (Appendix 1) and to agree 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.
- Consider and agree the membership of the group as attached (Appendix 2) and to agree that the membership of the group be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency and appropriateness for the work of the group as it develops over time.
- To note the future meeting dates submitted in this report.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Area CPG Terms of Reference were last reviewed and agreed in February 2022. An updated version, which has been amended to reflect some changes in language and terminology, is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The membership of the Area CPG was last reviewed in February 2022. The Area CPG are asked to consider whether any changes should be made to the membership, details of which are attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The membership will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency and appropriateness for the work of the group as it develops over time, however there is provision for additional organisations to join the group at any stage to accommodate local circumstances.
- 3.4 Historically meeting dates for Area Community Planning Groups are scheduled approximately half way between the programmed meetings of the Community Planning Partnership Management Committees to enable effective and timeous reporting of matters to that committee. Members are therefore asked to note that the meeting dates for the Oban Lorn and the Isles Area CPG for 2023/24 will be:-
- Wednesday 10 May 2023
 - Wednesday 16 August 2023
 - Wednesday 8 November 2023
 - Wednesday 7 February 2024
 - Wednesday 8 May 2024

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Given the development of Local Action Plans and the future focus of the work of Area Community Planning Groups the meeting is asked to review and agree the attached Terms of Reference and the current membership.

5. SOA Outcomes

Not applicable. The report relates to the administration of the Area CPG.

For further information please contact:

Stuart McLean, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Tel 01436 658 717

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 – Membership list

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

Terms of Reference: Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group

The Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group is a sub group of, and report to, the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership's Management Committee.

It is an unincorporated partnership of agencies and organisations with membership drawn from the public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships that have an interest in Oban, Lorn & the Isles.

Purpose

Argyll & Bute is a large and diverse area. Communities inevitably have different issues even within the overall umbrella of a community plan for the whole area.

Area Community Planning Groups are the vehicle to ensure that there is effective community planning delivery, as set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, at a local level by:

- Contributing to the oversight role of the whole partnership by highlighting issues of a partnership nature that cannot be resolved locally through the Area Community Planning Group, to the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee.
- Acting on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership via its Management Committee to oversee the implementation of Community Planning Action Plans (known as 'locality plans' within the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015).
- Acting on behalf of the community to ensure that local concerns and priorities are highlighted to the Community Planning Partnership's Management Committee.

Role

The role of the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group is to:

- Oversee the development and implementation of the Community Planning Action Plan for Oban, Lorn & the Isles
- Encourage effective working across community planning partners at an area level
- Act as a conduit to ensure that local priorities are met and local issues addressed through partnership working

Remit

The Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group has the authority to:

- contribute to the development of a Community Planning Action Plan for Oban, Lorn & the Isles.
- monitor progress of the Community Planning Action Plan for Oban, Lorn & the Isles.
- provide the scrutiny role for the Community Planning Partnership within Oban, Lorn & the Isles considering regular performance monitoring reports and providing information

to the Management Committee by submitting written reports on challenges that cannot be resolved locally; where these challenges relate to partnership working and not single agencies. A representative of a community group or statutory body or business that is not a member of the group may also attend a meeting with prior agreement from the chair to provide additional information should a specific issue of concern to the group be scheduled as an agenda item

- form short term working groups to undertake defined pieces of work as required by the group
- engage with communities within Oban, Lorn & the Isles to understand their needs and consult on issues relating to Community Planning at an area level
- contribute to a Community Planning annual report for Argyll and Bute on progress on the agreed outcomes and best practice in partnership working.
-

Short Term Working Groups

Short Term Working Groups initiated by the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group must:

- be approved at a meeting of the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group and its purpose recorded in the minute of the meeting, with clarity on the objective and output of the group and the start and end date of the work.
- have a named member of the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group acting as lead officer for the group
- have a list of members of the group agreed at inception
- have an appropriate source of administrative support identified and agreed at inception
- Where relevant have an appropriate funding package identified at inception and a named member of the short term working group undertaking financial responsibility for the initiative
- provide regular reports of activity and progress to the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group; and in updates to the Management Committee
- any changes to the above must be approved by the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group and recorded in the minute of the meeting

Equal Opportunities & Fairer Scotland Duty

The Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group will ensure that equal opportunities are considered in each of their remitted activities, any expected negative impacts are mitigated and promotion of equal opportunities is central to its on-going activities.

In doing so The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group will consider the responsibilities placed on it by The Fairer Scotland Duty. This duty places a legal responsibility on particular public bodies in Scotland to pay due regard to (actively consider) how they can reduce inequalities of outcome, caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions.

Criteria for Membership

- Membership is drawn from public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships operating within the Oban, Lorn & the Isles area.
- Membership is open to all organisations public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships operating within the Oban, Lorn & the Isles area with an interest in at least one of the outcomes identified in the Outcome Improvement Plan.
- Organisations can self-nominate, be invited to join or have a statutory obligation to participate.
- In order to ensure democratic accountability, the Chair and Vice Chair from the Argyll & Bute Council Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Committee and one other Elected Member from an Argyll & Bute Council Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Committee Ward not already represented by the Chair or Vice Chair will sit as members of the group.
- In order to ensure democratic accountability, community councils situated within the Oban, Lorn & the Isles area will sit as a member of the group. Subject to local needs, this may be individual community councils, or by way of a caucus arrangement agreed by the community councils situated within the Oban, Lorn & the Isles area, or alternatively one community council representing all of the community councils on a rotational basis. The community council undertaking this role will be nominated by the other community councils within the area on an annual basis or more frequently if agreed locally.
- In order to comply with legislation which governs Community Planning in Scotland, some organisations have a statutory obligation to participate in community planning. The organisation will nominate the most appropriate person within their organisation to sit as a member of the group where relevant.
- In order to reflect the needs of the community and range of activities covered by the Area Community Planning Action Plan, other organisations and partnerships operating within the local area are also able to sit as members of the group.
- In order to obtain a balanced representation of the above and to ensure a community focussed approach, a ratio of no more than 50% public sector membership should be maintained throughout the lifetime of the group.
- The representatives ought to be able to speak on behalf of their organisation and where appropriate commit funding and other resources to local partnership activity. Membership should reflect the needs of the community and can therefore change subject to approval by a simple majority vote of the other members of the group.

Role of Members

Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group members have the following responsibilities:

- To consistently attend the scheduled Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group meetings.
- Consistency in attendance by members is necessary to build momentum and progress the activities of the group.
- Appoint a substitute to attend meetings on their behalf if they are unable to attend.

- To communicate information relating to the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group with other members and officers within their own organisation and other organisations operating within the area of activity they represent.
- To communicate information relating to their organisations area of activity to other members of the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group at meetings.
- To raise community planning related issues (that is issues related to Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan) on behalf of the community at Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group meetings.
- To contribute to the development, on-going monitoring and review of the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Action Plan.
- To participate in short term working groups as required.

Meetings

Chair

- The Chair and Vice Chair of the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group will be elected by the members of the group and will be appointed for a period of two years.
- The outgoing Chair and Vice Chair can stand for re-election at the end of the two year period.
- However, no one person can serve in the role of Chair or Vice Chair for more than two consecutive two year periods
- Should either the Chair or Vice Chair resign their position during their term of office, the office bearer must either notify the group in person at a scheduled Area CPG meeting or contact the chair in writing advising formally of their intention to stand down. Members will be advised of the resignation timeously and an election to fill the vacant post will be conducted at the next scheduled Area CPG meeting
- Nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions will be proposed and seconded by Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group members. Each member will have one vote and a simple majority vote will determine the outcome of the election process.
- The elected Chair, or in their absence, the Vice-Chair shall preside over the meeting. If both are absent, partners will choose a member from the floor to preside.
- Members should respect the authority of the Chair who will decide matters of order, competency, relevancy and urgency.

Quorum

- The quorum for a meeting will be 5.
- If a quorum is not present within 10 minutes of the scheduled start of a meeting or if at any point after a meeting has commenced attendance falls below the quorum the meeting will be declared inquorate.
- If a quorum is not present, at the Chairperson's / Vice-Chairperson's discretion, the meeting shall proceed and any decisions taken will be homologated at the next meeting.
- For purposes of the quorum, participation of partners by video-conferencing or telephone conference links will be considered as present.

Frequency of Meetings

- The Area Community Planning Groups of the CPP will normally meet once each quarter (4 times each year).
- These meetings will normally be held in February, May, August and November.
- Where business requires, further meetings can be called with agreement of the Chair subject to the required notice being given.

Conduct of Meetings

- Meetings of the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group will be held in public.
- Observers can only participate in discussion with the agreement of Chair.
- Members must declare any conflict of interests at the start of a meeting and take no part in the consideration of the relevant item.
- Observers wishing to participate in discussion must declare any interest in the subject under discussion.
- All meetings will be minuted and a minute made available through the Council's website and available from a link through the community planning partnership website.
- Meetings of the Area Community Planning Groups will be conducted in accordance with the lead partner's (Argyll & Bute Council) standing orders for meetings subject to any necessary changes as set out above (mutatis mutandis).

Decision making

- All members of the group have equal status
- Each member has one vote
- The Chair retains the casting vote
- All decisions must be clearly minuted with a brief summary of the discussion and reason for decision recorded as well as the outcome
- The minutes should clearly record who or whatever organisation is responsible for action
- Observers and persons attending the meeting in an advisory capacity may provide information but are not part of the decision making process and are not able to participate in a vote

Accountability

The Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group is an integral part of Community Planning in Argyll & Bute and is accountable to the following bodies:

- Full Community Planning Partnership via the Management Committee
- Community within its local area

Support

The Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group will be supported by:

- A Lead Officer to facilitate and promote the smooth operation of the group and work closely with group members to ensure a supportive structure, which responds to the needs of the members in addressing issues.
- Administrative support, organising meetings, taking minutes and associated administrative support will be provided by Argyll and Bute Council, Governance & Law.

- A Local Community Development Officer will have a key role, working in partnership with organisations in the support of community groups, organisations and individuals, particularly those who do not traditionally engage in community issues, to participate in local community planning.

Issue of Papers

- The agenda and papers for the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group will normally be issued 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- The Chair can agree to accept late papers.
- The draft Agenda detail will normally be circulated four weeks in advance to allow members to propose items for inclusion
- The agenda and papers will be published on the Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership website, the Argyll & Bute Council website and available from a link through the community planning partnership website.

Communications

The Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group is encouraged to share any best practice in partnership working locally with the wider Community Planning Partnership. Case studies and examples of partnership working making a difference can be sent to cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk to be shared and promoted. For example this may be through the regular CPP e-Bulletin. The CPP e-Bulletin is available to members of the Area Community Planning Groups and sign up is via cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk. Paper copies are available and it is downloadable from the webpage.

Winding Up

The Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group is a sub group of the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership.

- If the Argyll & Bute Community Partnership is dissolved, the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group will cease to exist by default
- If a review of Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership delivery structure should recommend that Area Community Planning Groups should be dissolved to facilitate a new delivery structure, the decision whether or not to wind up the group will be made by the Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership following consultation with the Area Community Planning Groups and Argyll & Bute Council as lead partner for community planning within the area.
- Area Community Planning Group members may initiate a proposed wind up of the group by submitting a report outlining the reasons why it was felt the group was no longer required to the Management Committee in the first instance. The decision whether or not to wind up the group will be made by the Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership following consultation with Argyll & Bute Council as lead partner for community planning within the area

Approved and adopted at the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Community Planning Group meeting held on 11 March 2015

Amended March 2015 to reflect a change in the meeting cycle

Amended March 2016 to clarify procedure if either the Chair or Vice Chair resigns during their term of office and amend number of days meeting papers are to be circulated prior to meeting date

Amended February 2017 to clarify procedure if outgoing office bearer wishes to stand for re-election.

Amended February 2019 to clarify terms in respect of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan / Area Community Planning Action Plan.

Amended February 2021 to clarify language and terminology and to include reference to Fairer Scotland Duty.

Amended February 2022 to clarify language and terminology.

Amended February 2023 to clarify language and terminology.

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Appendix 2

Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Groups Membership

Organisation	Name
Argyll and Bute Council	ClIr A Kain ClIr K Green ClIr A Vennard
Community Councils	Mull Iona Coll Tiree Oban Glenorchy & Innishail Taynuilt Avich & Kilchrenan Luing Kilninver & Kilmelford Seil & Easdale Kilmore & Kilbride Dunbeg Lismore Appin Connel Ardchattan
Police Scotland	Chief Inspector Simon Shanks Inspector Ian Hutchison Sgt Chris Edwards PC Laura Evans
Scottish Fire and Rescue	John Sweeney
Health & Social Care Partnership (OLI)	Morven Gemmill
ACHA	Michelle Mundie
West Highland Housing Association	Leslie McInnes
Highlands & Islands Enterprise	Catriona McKnight/Morag Goodfellow
Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface	Kirsteen Murray/Katrina Sayer
Health & Wellbeing Network	Kirsty McLuckie
BIDS4Oban	Andrew Spence Yvonne MacLean
Scottish Federation for Small Businesses	Janet Waterworth
Argyll & Isles Strategic Tourism Partnership	Carron Tobin
Argyll College	Maggie Melville (Developing the Young Workforce)
Cal Mac	Blair Moglia
Development Coll	
Hope Kitchen	
Disability Forum & Access Panel	Ken Johnson
Oban Tourism	Linda Battison
Tiree Trust	
Crossroads	Joan Best
North Argyll Carers	Morag MacLean & Arlene Colewell
Oban Youth Forum	Maureen Evans
Oban Youth Cafe	Kirsty McLuckie
Oban Communities Trust/Rockfield	Eleanor McKinnon
TSI	Petra Pearce
Oban High School	Kevin Champion
Skills Development Scotland	Susan MacRae
OCHDA	Robert Kincaid

Dunbeg Woodlands Group	Laura Corbe
Member Scottish Youth Parliament	Ryan MacIntyre
MECOPP Carers Centre	Ali Martin
Carr Gomm	Becs Barker & Sarah Chapman

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership**Oban Lorn & The Isles Area Community Planning Group****8 February 2022**

Appointment of Chair of the Oban Lorn & The Isles Area Community Planning Group

Summary

The following report provides information relating to the appointment of a Chair for the Oban Lorn & The Isles Community Planning Group. It outlines the expected time commitment and also gives information on the role. The Area Community Planning Group is asked to consider making an appointment to the position of Chair.

1. Purpose

1.1 This report asks the Area Community Planning Group to consider the appointment of a Chair.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Area Community Planning Group is asked to consider the appointment of a Chair.

3. Background

3.1 The current Chair, Kevin Champion, has been in post since February 2021. In accordance with the Terms of Reference the Chair is elected for a period of 2 years. The Group is therefore required to nominate a member to take on the role of Chair.

4. Detail

4.1 According to the Terms of Reference the Chair, if elected, would serve for a term of 2 years with an option to be re-elected at the end of this time. However, no one person can serve for more than 2 consecutive terms.

4.2 In order to be considered as a candidate for the position of Chair the person must be a member of the Oban Lorn & The Isles Community Planning Group.

4.3 Some further information on the commitment required:-

- Attend meetings of the Oban Lorn & The Isles Community Planning Group;

- Attend meetings of the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee or the Full Partnership;
- Time commitment of at least 4 Community Planning Group meetings per year in February, May, August and November and 4 pre-agenda meetings per year in January, April, July and October;
- To participate in any Short-Term Working Groups as required; and
- To engage with officers of the Council in terms of setting the Agenda for the CPG in consultation with the Vice-Chair.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The Area Community Planning Group is asked to consider the appointment of a Chair.

6. SOA Outcomes

6.1 This report does not link to any specific Outcome as it relates to the administrative arrangements.

For further information please contact:

Stuart McLean, Committee Manager (01436) 658717

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



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

Oban, Lorn and the Isles CPG Briefing Report

Q3 2022/23

Performance & Activity Report

From:	1st October 2022	To:	31st December 2022
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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 somewhat 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.

	October/November/December
Training Subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CFBT ● Tac Vent ● Casualty Care ● RTC and Extrication ● HAZMAT ● SWAH

Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)

Ward	3 Year Average	2021/22	2022/23
Oban North & Lorn	1.7	2	3
Oban South & the Isles	4.3	2	3
Community Board Total	6	4	6

ADF Casualties

Ward	3 Year Average	2021/22	2022/23
Oban North & Lorn	0	0	0
Oban South & the Isles	0.7	0	0
Community Board Total	0.7	0	0

Deliberate Secondary Fire Setting

Ward	3 Year Average	2021/22	2022/23
Oban North & Lorn	0.3	1	0
Oban South & the Isles	0	0	0
Community Board Total	0.3	1	0

Fires in Non-Domestic Property

Ward	3 Year Average	2021/22	2022/23
Oban North & Lorn	0.3	0	1
Oban South & the Isles	1	3	0
Community Board Total	1.3	3	1

Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies

Ward	3 Year Average	2021/22	2022/23
Oban North & Lorn	4	1	4
Oban South & the Isles	3	1	6
Community Board Total	7	2	10

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Ward	3 Year Average	2021/22	2022/23
Oban North & Lorn	17.7	17	25
Oban South & the Isles	33.3	33	41
Community Board Total	51	50	66

Incidents/Activities of Note

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

We are still continually working with partners and targeting our top offenders which are Education including Infant/Primary/Secondary Schools, and Residential/Care Homes.

A new UFAS Policy has been devised by a dedicated project team within SFRS with an aim at reducing UFAS Incidents further. Completion of this has been advised to be April 2023.

Road & Water Safety campaigns

We have been working alongside Police Scotland, RNLI and various other Partners across all sectors engaging with the Local Community at various identified hotspots providing information, advice and literature relevant to Road & Water Safety (including drug and alcohol misuse and ASB), as well as providing Throwline and CPR Training to local businesses and members of the public.

Community Engagement Activities

- Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) following every domestic incident.
- Fire, Water & Road Safety Talks –Presentations into schools and local community groups with practical demonstrations and interactive scenario floorboards.
- Continue to deliver Fire Safety advice via HFSVs and provision of smoke detection where none is fitted.
- Represented on the MARAC for those affected by domestic Violence.
- Continue to support “Make the Call” Campaign and “On Call” recruitment drive for retained and volunteer stations.
- Supporting PAWS group and engaging with the public, #RESPECTTHEWATER campaign.
- Online training for partners with risk awareness within the training via MS Teams.
- Engaging with communities for Bonfire/Autumn TAP safety advice; Bonfire/Fireworks Safety, firework legislation, Anti-Social Behaviour and deliberate fire setting, refuse fires, outdoor fires, fly-tipping, wildfires.
 - Bonfire & Fireworks Presentations delivered to all schools within the area using 3 pronged approach depending on the schools capacity to accommodate in person, over MS teams, or to present themselves with our support.
 - SFRS Electric Vehicles within the Area
 - Beehives within the area producing Honey.
 - Victim support referral pathway set up

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'll 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>



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Communities & Partnerships Team

Since the last meeting the Policing team framework within the MAKI and OLI region has become more cemented, with a Communities & Partnerships Team set up to start developing its work in the local area. Currently, this consists of Insp Lee Page, based in Oban, and Sgt Matt Shaw, based in Lochgilphead. Their focus is to service those ties already present, building on the good work that has gone before, and to expand the partnership network to the benefit of partners and the public that we serve. Whilst Sgt Matt Shaw, who has a background in Child Protection and Serious Crime, has already been linking with this forum and has spoken before, Insp Lee Page comes from Response Policing, working in the department for four months, having transferred in from West Mercia Police in England, where he had a strong history in community policing and partnership working. Both look forward to helping develop partnerships, programs and initiatives that will better serve the communities of this part of Argyll.

Should any members of this forum feel that they have identified relations that need strengthening, have questions for the Police or have programs/initiatives that they wish to discuss with Insp Page or Sgt Shaw, please, don't hesitate to contact them on: Lee.Page@scotland.police.uk and Matthew.Shaw@scotland.police.uk

Community Council Framework

On the back of the above development, the way that Community Councils within the OLI and MAKI areas are engaged with has changed. There has been inconsistency with how Community Councils have been served across this Policing area, with some having fixed representation, some having sporadic attendance, and some not having any interaction whatsoever. Moving forward all Community Councils will receive the same service. Firstly, a report will be generated each month which details the number of calls the Beat Area the Community Council lies within has received. The top three demands for that Beat Area will also be detailed, along with any associated press releases, to help provide some context. Within this document will also be any key messaging that the Police wish to pass to communities. This document will help show the wider demand for Police Services for the area in which those communities live.

All the councils have been written to, advising of the new structure and seeking confirmation of points of contact and meeting times/date. It will now be the case that the Duty Response Sgt will be informed of what meetings are taking place when they are on duty. Where they can facilitate attendance through themselves, or another officer, they will. However, with 36 Community Councils and only 1-2 Sergeants on duty at any given time, many appointments are liable to clash and the demand being serviced from 999 calls will always have to take priority. Should they be able to attend, they will have the same report as furnished to the councils already, but will be able to answer any questions, provide further context if applicable or take away information/requests for further development.

Again, Insp Page and Sgt Shaw, are the points of contact for the Community Councils and will develop any work that is required for or by them.

Not At Home Protocol

Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Police Division has been working with key partners in the local authority to develop the Not At Home Protocol which launches locally on the 9th January 2023.

Police Scotland and Partners recognise the importance of their roles as 'Corporate Parents' and are committed to ensuring the wellbeing and support of care experienced young people. We also recognise that care experienced young people should be listened to and supported to prevent them being unnecessarily criminalised and from being exposed to risk and harm. Some children may be 'not at home' for a short period of time before returning. Sometimes children stay out longer than agreed, either on purpose or accidentally, and may be testing

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boundaries. This kind of boundary testing is well within the range of normal teenage behaviour and is not necessarily considered a risk. Police Scotland receive a number of calls relating to missing persons, often relating to care experienced young people who have not returned home, however their whereabouts are known by their care provider and they are believed to be safe and well.

The Not At Home Protocol has the following aims:

- To meet the needs of our care experienced children and young persons
- To ensure a proportionate and risk assessed response to missing episodes
- To reduce the likelihood of escalation of behaviour with unnecessary police contact

Where there are good grounds to believe that a child's absence is careless or deliberate, and there is no apparent risk to the child and/or public it is permissible to have a single agency response and there is no need for the police to be contacted. If that risk becomes intolerable to the carer, consideration should be given to reporting the child missing to Police Scotland, generating a multi-agency response.

Local Authorities, care providers and Police all play a vital role in the prevention, response, support and protection of children when they are missing. It is recognised that looked after children who go missing from care homes are particularly vulnerable as they can be targeted and may lack direct support or supervision from close family members.

Distress Brief Intervention

Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) is an innovative way of supporting people in distress. The DBI approach emerged from the Scottish Government's work on Suicide Prevention and Mental Health strategies. The aim of the DBI programme is to provide a framework for improved inter[1]agency working, collaboration and co-operation across a wide range of care settings, interventions and community supports, working towards the shared goal of providing a compassionate and effective response to people in distress. This makes it more likely that individuals in distress will engage with and stay connected to services or support that may benefit them over time. Most importantly, DBI provides the opportunity to do the right thing and help people get access to early and effective support at a time when they need it most. Early and effective interventions by trained professionals go such a long way to improving a person's quality of life and those of their families, friends and the wider community.

Scottish Health Award Winner 2019



Distress Brief Intervention
Connected Compassionate Support

DBI affords police officers a further tactical option (not previously available) to consider when dealing with people presenting in distress. It will not replace / duplicate any current arrangements for anyone who requires further medical treatment and will complement existing local arrangements such as contact with the Emergency Crisis Mental Health Team. Within Argyll and Bute, referrals for Distress Brief Intervention can be sent to Support In Mind Scotland who provide follow up with the person in distress within 24 hours of the referral. Support in Mind Scotland

are then able to offer up to 14 days of time limited support to the individual and can link in with the GP for localised/further support.

There are now over 50 police officers trained to make DBI referrals including officers on our islands including Mull, Tiree,Islay and Rothesay ensuring this support is available regardless of where in Argyll and Bute you live.

Rural Watch Scotland

Scotland is renowned for its great natural beauty and the rural communities of Scotland are safe places in which to live, work and visit. However, the nature of the environment and way of life means there are some crime prevention tips particularly relevant to rural life. Police Scotland would like to encourage people within Argyll and Bute to get involved with Rural Watch Scotland and to sign up and receive FREE alerts.

'Rural Watch Scotland' is an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland movement and a product of the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) aimed specifically at the rural community of Scotland and aims to bring all the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch to your community irrespective of its location, size or demographics. The objectives of Rural Watch Scotland mirror that of Neighbourhood Watch, namely to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime by providing the right information, to the right people, at the right time
- Encourage people to think about safety and security for themselves, their neighbours and their community
- Improve community cohesion and well-being by supporting communities to develop 'their watch, their way'
- Work in partnership with national and local service providers to develop more resilient communities that are better prepared against threats, intentional or unintentional, such as crime or extreme weather

By joining Rural Watch Scotland you can receive alerts and advice by phone, text or email. By keeping you informed about crime and other threats in your area, we help prevent crime, keep your community and its residents safe, and your response to these alerts can help us catch criminals or be better prepared to deal with other threats to your community. To join Rural Watch Scotland simply click the green JOIN button at the top of the internet page found here <https://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk/#SignUp>

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Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership

Area Meetings

Date: January 2022



Partner update – Public Health

The paper provides an update on ongoing wellbeing and prevention activity overseen and delivered by the HSCP Public Health Team in Argyll and Bute.

Living Well self-management grant funding 2022/2023

In November 2022 Argyll & Bute HSCP launched year 4 of the Living Well (Self-Management) community capacity building fund, which was open to Third Sector organisations who deliver services/support to adults over the age of 18 living in Argyll and Bute.

Applications were invited from third sector organisations that can support the HSCP to deliver on the Living Well Strategy. In 2022/2023, the fund was keen to attract projects that had a particular focus on

- Supporting volunteer wellbeing.
- Reducing isolation and improving community networks.
- Supporting healthy weight or access/cost around food via sustainable food programmes in our communities.

The Living Well steering group is delighted to announce that the following groups will receive grant funding from this programme:

- Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau
- Hope Kitchen
- Argyll Wellbeing Hub
- Jean's Bothy
- Dochas Carers Centre
- eXp Dunoon
- Kintyre Link Club

Community Link Working

The Argyll and Bute Community Link Working service is commissioned by Argyll and Bute HSCP and delivered by 3rd sector organisation We Are With You. Community Link Workers can be accessed through referral from 14 GP practices across Argyll and Bute. The service addresses inequalities by being accessible to those living in the areas of Argyll and Bute that experience the most socioeconomic deprivation.

Community Link Workers recognise that social issues such as debt, relationships, employment and loneliness affect people's health and wellbeing, and will connect people to sources of support or resources within their community. The service has been developed in line with the modernisation and expansion of services delivered in GP practices, resulting in multidisciplinary teams working together to support people holistically and improve outcomes for patients.

The Community Link Working service continues to receive positive feedback and an increasing number of referrals. Over the first 6 months of the service, 240 referrals were received, with 85% of people who completed wellbeing scale at Entry and Exit reported increased well-being scores. The CLWs use a variety of approaches to support people to make changes to their health and wellbeing. This may include signposting, sharing information, referral, or direct support with self-management techniques such as relaxation strategies. 98% of those who completed a satisfaction survey strongly agreed/agreed that they had received the right support from the link worker.

"My link worker has been an absolute huge support to me when I needed. I don't know how I would have coped without her."

"I definitely feel that having the link worker support me and help me find the correct resources has made a huge difference and achieved so much. I am very grateful for the time, effort and compassion that was shown to me and I feel like a lot of people would really benefit from the same experience I had."

Further information can be found at: <https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/what-we-do/community-links/> or via email at argyllandbutecommunitylinks@wearewithyou.org.uk

Health Improvement website

The Argyll and Bute Health Improvement team has launched a new website with information about the Living Well strategy and the wider health improvement work. The website can be accessed via: <https://www.ablivingwell.org/>.

The website contains information about the work of the Living Well Networks. The Living Well Networks (LWNS) are for people with an interest in building healthy communities. They provide an opportunity for people to come together to find out what issues matter to local communities; to plan activities and events together; and to network with individuals, services and organisations with an interest in improving health. The networks have allocated co-ordination time funded by the Argyll and Bute HSCP.

The website also has information about health improvement work relating to Type 2 Diabetes, self-management, emotional/mental wellbeing, suicide prevention, and smoking cessation.

Resources such as such as Public Health Annual Reports and electronic versions of leaflets can be found here: <https://www.ablivingwell.org/resources-publications>. This includes the updated Small Changes Big Differences leaflet, which contains useful self-management information for a range of health behaviours, including where to

find further support https://www.ablivingwell.org/s/small-changes-big-difference-booklet_updated-Aug-22.pdf

Screening

The Argyll and Bute Health Improvement Team have been raising awareness about the importance of health screening, particularly Bowel and Cervical. Since November 2022, outreach work with many community and third sector organisations has been ongoing, to raise awareness and have access to accurate information. The team plan to deliver training on how to raise the issue of health screening for community-based organisations and offer further support.

In addition to the community work, The Smoke Free Advisers will also start to introduce health screening, where appropriate, when offering their smoking cessation service. Encouraging the conversation of health screening can reduce misconceptions, provide accurate information, and reduce fears and anxieties.

Bowel screening is done to help find cancer early, when it can be cured. In Scotland, people aged 50 to 74 will be invited for bowel screening every 2 years. If you're 75 or over, you can still take a bowel screening test every 2 years. However, you'll need to request a new test kit each time as the Scottish Bowel Screening Centre won't routinely send you one, ordering a new kit can be done on

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/screening/bowel/request-a-bowel-screening-test-kit/>

Cervical screening is routinely offered to anyone with a cervix in Scotland between the ages of 25 and 64 is usually every 5 years. Testing for HPV is an effective way of identifying those at risk of developing cervical cancer. More information can be found on <https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/screening/cervical/cervical-screening-smear-test> .

In addition to this if anything seems unusual for you, or you have any signs or symptoms that you are concerned about, the advice is to contact your GP to arrange an appointment.

Further information on all the NHS Screening Programmes can be found at NHS Inform [Screening | NHS inform](#)

Screening information for the transgender / non binary community can be found at [Transgender screening in Scotland | NHS inform](#)

REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTACT

Author Names: Sam Campbell, (Interim Health Improvement Principal); Laura Stephenson and Jenny Dryden (Health Improvement Leads)

Email nsh.abhealthimprovement@nhs.scot

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**Oban and Lorn Living Well Network
Islands Living Well Network (Mull and Iona, Tiree, Coll and Colonsay)**

18/01/2023

Date of next meetings

The next Oban and Lorn Living Well Network Meeting will be on Thursday 16th February from 10am till no later than 12noon.

The next Islands Living Well Network Meeting will be on Thursday 23rd February from 2pm till no later than 4pm.

Both meetings will be a chance for members to share information, network and find any common ground for joint working.

Mandy Sheridan will be speaking at both meetings. She will have information about the Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and also information about training being run by the Violence against Women and Girls Partnership, particularly the roll out of Safe and Together.

Both meetings will be on Zoom, please contact tcmhwn@gmail.com if you would like to attend either or both meetings.

Carol Flett

Living Well Network Coordinator

07753218327

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Community Learning Services LiveArgyll Update

After the Festive break Community Learning Services activities have resumed and in addition to existing activities ongoing there are new initiatives underway and up and coming.

There has been a change in remits Maureen Evans is the Lead Worker for youth Work and Scott Douglas is the Lead Worker for Adult Learning.

For further information on what activities are currently running and what is in the pipeline please contact Maureen and Scott directly.

MSYPs are running consultations events across Argyll with young people around their right to vote and how to vote. During this event they will also be supporting the Community Planning Partnership in promoting and encouraging more Young People to complete the recent Improving Lives in Argyll Survey if they haven't already done so.

Adult Learning

Due to the success of the taster sessions in October 2022 further taster sessions were held in December offering some short taster sessions in different craft activities for example Quilling, Collaging and Boccia and was promoted and advertised through local organisations (e.g. Hope Kitchen, Wellbeing Hub) as well as on social media

New Appointment of LiveArgyll Community Learning Services Youth Team Leader: Wendy Reid has been appointed as the Youth Services Team Leader and will start in her new role in February 2023. Wendy will start to introduce herself to Partners, Organisations when she starts and we would like to welcome her on-board.

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Oban Community Harbour Development Association

Argyll & Bute Council have submitted the Harbour Revision Order to Transport Scotland on what they say is a preliminary basis; thus if there is anything not right legally at first glance it will then come back to the Harbour Board. If it carries on in the due process there will come a time when there is a public consultation period of six weeks. Further stages will then process towards Argyll & Bute Council being the authority for a greater area of harbour and the safety therein. CalMac continue to have a nested area nearby there ferry pier facility.

OCHDA has been very supportive and have assisted in the Councils progress of this matter over the last year, but it has not been easy. One sticking point is that the governance of the port has little local influence built into it, no local advisory group and stakeholders may just not be heard. OCHDA feel strongly that this is not acceptable as Oban is a far more complex port than other small scale facilities that it presently operates. In terms of vessel numbers and berthed/moored vessels within a given area; it is substantially different.

Robert Kincaid OCHDA rep 25/1/23

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DWP Partner Update January 2023

Count of customers – Universal Credit and Legacy benefits (Stats Xplore 19/01/23)

Universal Credit – Number of People on UC by Age Group at December 2022 (all conditionality groups)

Jobcentre Plus	18 – 24	25 – 39	40 – 49	50 – 59	60+	TOTAL
Campbeltown	99	353	196	156	105	909
Dunoon	150	464	261	230	116	1221
Helensburgh	151	486	247	201	109	1194
Oban	197	732	398	313	187	1827
Rothesay	68	253	178	154	86	739
TOTAL	665	2288	1280	1054	603	5890

Universal Credit – Number of People on UC by Conditionality Group at December 2022

Jobcentre Plus	C'town	Dunoon	H'burgh	Oban	Rothesay	TOTAL
Searching for work	172	304	202	377	168	1223
Working – with requirements	149	174	176	260	83	842
Working – no requirements	207	206	268	434	130	1245
No work related Requirements	341	463	485	608	288	2185
Planning for work	10	13	12	18	15	68
Preparing for work	31	74	65	117	61	384
TOTAL	910	1234	1208	1814	745	5911

Jobseekers Allowance at May 2022 – Argyll & Bute

Male	103
Female	44
Total	147

Employment & Support Allowance at May 2022 – Argyll & Bute

Phase of claim	
Assessment phase	88
Work Related Activity Group	293
Support Group	2163
Total	2544

Income Support as at May 2022 – Argyll & Bute

Statistical Group	
Lone Parent	43
Carer	104
Total	147

Update

DWP is providing targeted support for customers over 50 years of age, with each District now having a 50+ Champion who is working with local sties. This will enable those aged 50 and over, through early and targeted employment, skills and employer-led support to stay in, progress or return to work and to build their future financial resilience and wellbeing.

DWP continue to seek provision for its customers to support them in their employability journey. DWP has purchased Customer Service provision for 6 customers in the Campbeltown area and the customers who participated in this provision have gained a range of certification which will enhance their prospects of gaining employment in retail and hospitality sectors. The course included certified learning in Customer Service skills, Health & Safety at Work, Moving & Handling (Objects), Emergency First Aid and REHIS as well as mock interviews.

DWP purchased provision for 50 customers in West Scotland District which can be accessed by customers across Argyll & Bute and following the success of this support, further provision has been purchased. The aim of this provision is to progress customers who are reporting a health customer on their customer journey. The provision will support them to recognise and overcome barriers and to adjust their mindset, acknowledge their health conditions and gain an understanding of how to manage their movement towards work. This provision will run from 6/2/22 to 22/4/23.

Autumn Statement

The Chancellor delivered his Autumn Statement in November which included a targeted package of support for the most vulnerable. The full Autumn Statement is available to read on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) along with supporting documents including a Cost of Living [factsheet](#)

The package included:

Benefit Uprating – The Government is protecting the most vulnerable in society by increasing benefits in line with inflation by 10.1%. Working age families will see their benefit payments rise from April 2023. The Government is also providing support this winter for people who need help now, including money off energy bills and Cost of Living Payments.

Pensions Uprating – Pensioners in Great Britain will benefit from a 10.1% increase to their State Pension in April 2023 under the triple lock. This is worth over £870 next year on average. A full basic State Pension will increase from £141.85 to £156.20 per week, and the new State Pension will increase from £151.85 to £203.85. The Government will also protect 1.4 million of the poorest pensioner households from rising prices by increasing Pension Credit by 10.1% in April 2023.

New Cost of Living Payments – UK households on means-tested benefits will receive an additional Cost of Living Payment of £900 in 2023-24. These will be made in more than one instalment. People across the UK on non-mean tested benefits will receive a further £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment in 2023-24 to help with the additional costs they face. This is in addition to the Cost of Living Payment for households on means-tested benefits and pensioner households, if eligible.

Pensioner households across the UK will receive an additional £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment in 2023-24 to help with bills. This is in addition to means-tested and disability payments (if eligible) recognising that many pensioners are disproportionately impacted by higher energy costs and unable to increase their income through work.

Exact payment windows will be announced closer to the time, but are spread across a longer period to ensure a consistent support offering throughout the year. They will be broadly as follows:

£301 – First Cost of Living Payment – during Spring 2023
£150 – Disability Payment – during Summer 2023
£300 – Second Cost of Living Payment – during Autumn 2023
£300 – Pensioner Payment – during Winter 2023/24
£299 – Third Cost of Living Payment – during Spring 2024

Guidance on getting extra payment to help with the cost of living if you're entitled to certain benefits or tax credits has been updated to include a link to information about Cost of Living Payments during 2023 and 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>

Benefit Cap rise – In April 2023 the Government will also increase the benefit cap in line with inflation by 10.1%. The benefit cap will rise from £23,000 to £25,323 for families in Greater London and from £20,000 to £22,020 for families nationally. Lower caps for single households without children will rise from £15,410 to £16,967 in Greater London and from £13,400 to £14,753 nationally.

Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) – delay in managed move to Universal Credit - The Government has also had to make challenging decisions to deliver on fiscal sustainability while protecting support for those who need it most. As part of this, the Chancellor announced a delay in the moving of ESA claimants not in receipt of Child Tax Credit into UC until April 2028, this provides a welfare saving of £1 billion by 2027-28, as overall UC is more generous than the benefits it replaces. Completing the move to UC over a longer time frame moves these increased costs to a later date.

Recoverable Hardship Payments

From 19/12/22 claimants will be able to ask DWP to review a previous request to stop (waive) Recoverable Hardship Payment (RHP) repayments made between 1/1/14 and 11/1/21.

Recoverable Hardship Payments provide money to claimants who have seen their benefits reduced by sanctions or a fraud penalty. Claimants have to apply for them with evidence of need, and each request is reviewed individually. Hardship payments must be repaid by the claimant. However, claimants can request for the recovery of these payments to be waived, and must provide further evidence to show that paying back the money is either unaffordable or would affect their or their family's health or wellbeing.

And exercise has already started to look at previous waiver requests that took place prior to 11/1/21. A guidance page on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) explains the process and asks claimants to share evidence if they feel their RHP should be waived. Applications can only be considered if a request was made to waive the RHP between 1/1/14 and 11/1/21 and was refused at the time. With the evidence, Debt Management will check the claimant's circumstances to see if they would have qualified.

Automatic Enrolment – employer workplace pension duties

Automatic enrolment is a continuous responsibility for all employers, from ensuring they maintain pensions contributions to completing re-enrolment. The Pensions Regulator (TPR) provides information for employers to help them prevent errors.

We ask for your support in driving awareness of [employers' ongoing automatic enrolment duties](#). Further details on signing up to receive updates from The Pensions Regulator can be found on the TPR website.

Reversal of National Insurance increase

The reversal of April 2022's 1.25% rise in National Insurance took effect across the UK from 6/11/22. Most employees will start to receive this tax cut directly through payroll between November 2022 and February 2023.

Added to July's increase in National Insurance thresholds, almost 30 million people will be £500 better off on average this year. It takes effects in all part of the UK and means working people will keep more of the money they earn. Funding for health and social care services will be maintained at the same level as if the levy were in place.

Made with Care campaign highlights opportunities for careers in care

The "Made with Care" campaign has returned for a second year and highlights the wide range of opportunities available to build a career in care and help others to live happy, healthy, fulfilling lives.

Running until March 2023, campaign advertising will appear to millions across video-on-demand platforms such as ITV Hub, Sky Go and All 4 as well as radio and digital audio channels such as Spotify and social media and digital channels like Facebook and Instagram to direct jobseekers to www.adultsocialcare.co.uk People will be able to find everything the need to research a career in adult social care and, crucially, search and apply for adult social care jobs near them, with support to perfect their CV and advice on interviews.

Minimum Wage Increases

The National Living Wage will rise to £10.42 from 1/4/23, an increase of 92p or 9.7%. The Low Pay Commission's recommendations ensure the NLW continues on track to reach the Government's target of two-thirds of median earnings by 2024. The recommendations were unanimously agreed by Commissioners and accepted fully by the Government. [Large minimum wage increases help protect low-paid workers' living standards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Employers who have signed up to the Disability Confident scheme

This document lists employers who have signed up to the Disability Confident scheme, and their status (committed, employer or leader). [Employers that have signed up to the Disability Confident scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The Disability Confident scheme aims to help employers make the most of the opportunities provided by employing disabled people. It is voluntary and has been developed by employers and disabled people's representatives. The Disability Confident scheme has 3 levels that have been designed to support employers on their Disability Confident journey. Employers must complete each level before moving on to the next, it is free to sign up and use the guidance [How to sign up to the Disability Confident employer scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Winter Fuel Payment

11.6 million Winter Fuel and Cost of Living Payments have been made to pensioners across the UK so far this winter. Pensioners who haven't received their payment by 13/1/23 should contact the Winter Fuel Payment Centre online or by telephone [Up to £600 winter help paid to over 11.5 million pensioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) This video about Winter Fuel Payments can also be shared https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaPoW5_nzKg

END

11/1/23

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Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau Community Planning Partnerships Update Jan 2023**Cost of living crisis**

Argyll & Bute CAB has experienced a significant ongoing rise in the number of clients seeking support with energy costs. As a result we have secured additional funding to support clients across the four administrative regions

We are providing 1:1 and group information sessions on energy efficiency measures. To arrange a session please contact Libby Dobbie at the bureau 01546 605550 or email info@abcab.org.uk

Additionally our advisers can support clients to negotiate with their suppliers, and have additional supports available to those households that are off-grid or who rely on alternative sources of heating. We are referral partners to a wide range of emergency supports:

Home Heating Advice support fund

Fuel Bank Foundation

And have access to other smaller discretionary pots of money. We are delighted to announce a new partnership in this vein with the An Suidhe Windfarm fund, managed by Foundation Scotland. Households in the An Suidhe area can access confidential, free and independent advice and support from the Bureau and also may be eligible for financial assistance. We would ask partners to refer clients they believe may benefit from these funds directly to the bureau using the referral form at the base of this update report. The AN Suidhe fund is strictly limited to households in these postcode areas:

Avich:	Furnace:	Inveraray:	Eredine/South Loch Awe side:
PA35 1HH PA35 1HJ PA35 1HL PA35 1HN PA35 1HS	PA32 8XN PA32 8XX PA32 8XS PA32 8XU PA32 8XZ PA32 8XY PA32 8WD PA32 8YA	PA32 8 (but not Minard)	PA33 1BJ PA33 1BW PA33 1BP PA33 1BS PA33 1BU.

Our advisers continue to report increasing numbers of clients reporting complex or multifaceted issues and an increase in mental health issues as a result. We are looking to develop networks with existing mental health services and organisations to strengthen resources and supports to clients in these situations.

Volunteer opportunities:

The CAB is looking to begin our recruitment campaign for our spring cohort of volunteer trainee advisers. The training of an adviser within the CAB network can take around 6 months and we strive to develop confidence, research skills and strengthen confidence. The role is predominately aimed at those who have perhaps recently retired, reduced their hours within a paid role or who are looking at developing skills to return to the paid labour market. Advisers can be based anywhere in Argyll &

Bute, however we are particularly looking for individuals from the region's island communities, as well as those in an around the larger urban areas (Oban, Lochgilphead, Helensburgh, Campbeltown). We are delighted to have received funding from the HSCP Living Well Fund to support volunteer adviser wellbeing, we are holding wellbeing lunches once a month with our teams bot in person and virtually, and are looking arrange quarterly networking lunches with other 3rd sector organisations to share ideas on how to increase wellbeing and volunteer/adviser resilience. We recently held a very successful event with Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Services in the Comraich Centre in Lochgilphead prior to the Christmas break. If your organisation is interested in being part of these events please let me know by email jen.broadhurst@abcab.org.uk We would be happy to arrange an info session with our development worker to discuss the opportunity and course expectations. Partners are encouraged to invite clients/patients and service users to contact the bureau on 01546 605550 info@abcab.org.uk

Community Consultation

We are currently running our annual consultation exercise with partner organisations in order to review the work of the bureau and would welcome CPP attendee's responses to this <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ABCABCommunityPartnersSurvey/>

Research project for 2023

Partners may recall our research project last year looked into the private rental sector across Argyll & Bute and as a result we have engaged positively with the council on areas of mutual interest as we represent client's views on the private rental of homes in Argyll & Bute.

This year we are looking to report on the experiences of carers in the current cost of living crisis.

We would like to increase current engagement with local carers groups and explore research opportunities with carers in these services. We hope to be in contact with local groups and services over the next few weeks to arrange such.



a Carr Gomm project

Community Planning Group information for February 2023

Community Contacts offers free, impartial information, advice and support for people of all ages around Self Directed Support (SDS). We are funded by the Scottish Government's Support in The Right Direction Initiative (SiRD) and are working together with partners, including Argyll and Bute HSCP. We do this by:

Assisting people to exercise their rights and to take as much choice and control as they want about how their support is organised, managed and delivered.

- Support people to prepare for the SDS assessment process; by exploring the options open to them and through assistance, enable them to make informed social care choices. We can also assist people to challenge decisions made about their SDS support.
- Helping to reduce feelings of uncertainty or isolation by providing opportunities to make valuable connections with other relevant organisations or groups.
- Providing intensive support around Option 1 (direct payments) and the responsibilities associated with this option.

Between March and October 2022 Community Contacts provided:

- Intensive support to 208 people, including unpaid carers.
- Information and advice to a further 424 people.

We welcome contact with people at any stage of their process through SDS; anyone can refer to us. We are setting up drop-in sessions with local third sector organisations and are building on links with local schools to ensure people have access to information and advice about SDS.

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North Argyll Carers Centre update

We continue to see an increase in demand for our services. We have 678 unpaid carers actively receiving support from us. Since the last meeting we have registered 29 new adult carers and 15 new young carers. We received 61 referrals 44 of which were for new registrations and 17 for Carer Support Plan reviews to help secure respite for the unpaid carer.

For the first time since the pandemic began we held a Christmas Lunch for carers and those they care for at the Royal Hotel in Oban. It was lovely to welcome people back to the event, which saw 77 attending. We were blown away by the generosity of local businesses in donating amazing prizes for our raffle, particularly in view of the difficult times we still find ourselves in. Donors included Sea Kayak Oban, Oban Bay Hotel, Buildbase, Scottish Island Jewellery, Matrix, The Pierhouse Hotel, BID4OBAN, S.D Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning, CA Valeting and Detailing, Oban Phoenix Cinema, Trinity Hairdressing and Beauty, Chalmers of Oban, The Perle Hotel and Cmac Beauty. We were grateful too to the Royal Hotel who created a lovely atmosphere for the carers, made us feel really welcome and provided us with an excellent Christmas dinner.

Thanks to our funders, primarily Shared Care Scotland, Children in Need, CalMac and the HSCP, we have a varied program of peer support and short breaks activities for carers planned for 2023. Our weekly after school groups, day trips and residentials for young carers continue, with a sleepover at Dynamic Earth and a residential to the Outward Bound Trust's centre at Loch Eil coming up in the next few months. We have a blend of in person and online activities and peer support groups available to adult carers too. Our weekly Blether Group, Mindful Walking Group and Coffee Morning sessions continue to prove very popular, as does our monthly session for parent carers and their children at the Bridge Café's GoBananas soft play centre. We also have activities running out in community venues with regular sessions held in Oban, Kilmelford, Tobermory and, starting soon, on Seil. Our website and Facebook pages have details of our regular groups and upcoming events and activities.

The cost of living crisis and rising fuel costs are having a significant impact on unpaid carers, whose cost of living is already significantly higher than that of non-carer families. This coupled with the recruitment difficulties in Social Care are adding to the pressure carers face. We secured some additional funding from the HSCP to support a pilot which will enable us to put in place regular home-help type preventative supports for carers, to reduce the risk of them reaching crisis point. We have been compiling a list of local providers who may be able to help. The aim is to provide support with regular household tasks which will free up carers' time to focus on things that will improve their mental and physical wellbeing. Examples might include laundry, gardening, ironing and cleaning. For carers in very intensive caring roles, this type of regular short break can be more accessible and practical than the traditional respite model of a break away from home. We feel it will provide a valuable addition to the current respite options open to unpaid carers. We would be keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in being included on our list. We are also looking for local businesses who might be willing to help carers out with one-off property maintenance and repairs.

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Argyll & Bute TSI Update

Cost of Living Crisis

We have been busy compiling a list of useful resources and warm spaces across Argyll and Bute on our website. Click [here](#) to view the page.

If you know of a warm space that is not listed on the page please email Laurenmartin@Argylltsi.org.uk with the details

TSI Inveraray Hub

Our hub is being used regularly by the Third Sector and is proving to be a very useful space for hybrid meetings. The hub is also being offered as a warm space for organisations in Argyll & Bute to use during the cost-of-living crisis.

To enquire about the warm space, email laurenmartin@argylltsi.org.uk.

For more information on the hub, visit argylltsi.org/hub where you can book for your organisation or leave a review if you have used the hub before. We really appreciate any feedback to help us make the hub the best hybrid meeting space for Third Sector Organisations in Argyll & Bute.

Skills Network training

We have partnered with The Skills Network to offer distance learning qualifications fully funded via the Scottish Funding Council without cost. Ideal for filling skill gaps or personal development, the online fully funded courses are delivered virtually around your schedule and come with nationally recognised qualifications upon completion.

For more information click [here](#)

All Our Children Network meeting

We will be holding the next All our Children Network meeting on Tuesday 14th February. This will be a hybrid meeting with the option to attend in person at the Inveraray Hub.

On the agenda is the merger between All our Children and The TSI children and Young people network.

To view the agenda and sign up click [here](#)

TSI Social Enterprise Network

The Third Sector Interface are holding another Social Enterprise Network meeting on Wednesday 15th February 2023. The meeting will a hybrid meeting so you can attend in person or virtually online.

For more details and to reserve a spot [click this link](#)

**Argyll & Bute
Community Directory**

**Finding community services in
Argyll & Bute is as easy as ABCD!**

abcd.scot Powered by **Third Sector
Interface**
Argyll and Bute

Argyll & Bute Community Directory - Self Serve Function

Following on from the launch of the Argyll & Bute Community Directory, we introduced the Self Service functionality. This option will allow organisations to claim their listings on the Directory and update and maintain the services themselves.

To self-serve, you will need to register and then claim your listing. Click the link to start the registration process <https://abcd.scot/registration>

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Climate Change Working Group**Date: 20 January 2023**

Climate Change Working Group Highlight Report*Argyll and Bute Climate Action***1.0 Executive Summary**

This CPP sub-group, known as the Climate Change Working Group are planning the production of a Climate Change Action Plan for Argyll and Bute.

The Action Plan is proposed to be produced by employing a Climate Change Project Manager to lead the process.

The Climate Change Working Group recently agreed to start the project by recruiting a Project Manager this financial year.

2.0 Highlight Report**2.1 Action Plan background**

The purpose of the Action Plan is to establish a region-wide climate risk assessment and to develop an integrated set of adaptation, mitigation and engagement actions.

The proposed post of Climate Change Project Manager will bring organisations, businesses and communities together to develop a shared vision and understanding of climate change risks and opportunities across the Argyll and Bute region. It will identify priorities for communities, areas and sectors that will establish where (both spatially and thematically) and how the region can increase resilience and adapt, mitigate and engage on climate change issues.

It will identify, but not reproduce, climate change work either already happening or part of an organisation or business's own responsibilities.

2.2 Funding

The Climate Change Working Group are currently pulling together a funding package to support the post of the Climate Change Project Manager.

The cost of a Project Manager post is estimated to be in the region of £120,000 over two years, which would include the salary of an appropriately qualified climate leader, associated employer costs, T&S costs, etc.

Subsequent to previous calls for funding contributions, we had two firm contributions from partners:

£20,000 NHS Highland - Argyll & Bute Health and Social Care Partnership
£50,000 Argyll and Bute Council

We also recently received funding from NatureScot to the tune of £7,000 for this financial year, and have submitted a further bid for funds from next year's budget of £15,000.

2.3 Progress

The Climate Change working Group decided to start the project with the budget we currently have.

We have decided that we would advertise the Project Manager post with options for:

- i) 0.75 Full Time Equivalent for two years, or
- ii) 1.0 Full Time Equivalent for 18 months

...depending on the preferences of the successful candidate.

In any case we would need to continue searching for funding for either a continuation of the project timeline, or to provide additional assistance for the part time set-up. However, it was felt that finding £30,000 in year two would be achievable.

3.0 Summary

1. We propose producing a strategic Action Plan process as the best, and most thorough, way to address the climate emergency in Argyll and Bute.
2. We have an approved governance arrangement for the Climate Change Project Manager post.
3. We are actively pursuing the recruitment of a Project Manager to start this Action Plan work and hope to have someone in post before the end of the financial year.

Stan Phillips, Chair, CPP Climate Change Working Group

For more information, please contact:

Stan Phillips, Operations Manager, NatureScot

stan.phillips@nature.scot

sustaining



Oban Action Plan

for Active Travel and Sustainable Transport



January 2023

Front cover photo:
Ben Sunderland – Adventure Oban



Oban Action Plan

for Active Travel and Sustainable Transport



Contents

INTRODUCTION

1. Executive Summary

CONTEXT

2. Purpose & Scope of the Action Plan

Sustaining Choices

Oban

Core Team

Anticipated Uses for the Action Plan

3. Planning and Transport Policy Context

National Policy Context

4. Planning and Transport Policy Context 10

Local Policy Context 10

Related Research and Projects 12

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS 14

5. Approach 14

Project Delivery – Overview 14

Project Delivery – Detailed Steps 14

Marketing and Publicity 15

Attendance and Response Information 15

UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES 16

6. Evidence Gathering – Community Engagement 16

Response Data 16

MAKING IT HAPPEN 17

7. Delivery Strategy 17

Key Actions Identified 17

Next Steps 21

APPENDICES 22

Appendix 1 22

The Action Plan 22

Appendix 2 28

Key National Policy Documents 28

Key Local Policy Documents 28



Page 71

This project is supported by Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) and PAS, a volunteer-led, independent and impartial charity that helps people to understand and influence the places where they live, work and visit.



Introduction

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Sustaining Choices project has worked with communities across Scotland to develop a body of evidence that demonstrates the changes they would like to see in their area regarding walking, wheeling, cycling, and public transport. This is particularly timely given the challenge of climate change and net-zero targets, the need to reimagine the environments we live in as a result of the Covid pandemic, and the need to implement a green recovery as a consequence of both. This Action Plan articulates the evidence base that has been gathered for the communities of Oban.
- 1.2 Events were organised as a partnership between Adventure Oban, Argyll and the Islands Coast and Countryside Trust, and Argyll and Bute Council, with the support of PAS. Information gathering events were held in July and August 2022, with a further event held in November the same year. This event reviewed the top engagement outcomes and started to identify next steps.
- 1.3 The following Anchor Statement was developed by the local core team to define the goal of the engagement process: “Giving Oban residents a voice to decide what should be done to make active travel choices more attractive and appealing.”

- 1.4 The full list of actions (39) shared by the community can be found in Appendix 1, under the following topic headings: Active Travel; Bus Routes; Community Facilities; Maintenance; Other Comment; Outdoor Space; Parking; Public Realm; Public Transport; Road Layout.
- 1.5 The following table summarises the top 9 Key Actions identified for the area, as prioritised by the community.

“This Sustaining Choices project was a great way to bring together and catalyse lots of conversations that have been happening in the town around tackling the climate crisis, making active travel the easy option and making our beautiful town accessible for all.”

Isla McCulloch, Trustee – Adventure Oban

- 1.6 Key Actions proposed in Oban, in priority order:

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Active Travel	Introduce more safe bike routes including to and from schools.
2.	Active Travel	Improve the signage and lighting for active travel routes including public footpaths.
3.	Active Travel	Improve pavement network connectivity.
4.	Maintenance	Tidy up the general appearance of Oban including greenspace, pavements and shop fronts.
5.	Active Travel	Ensure pavements meet the needs of those with additional access needs including disabled people.
6.	Outdoor Space	Consider how access to greenspace can be improved and the quality of existing green space maximised.
7.	Active Travel	Improve infrastructure for cycling.
8.	Road Layout	Install clear signage for narrow shared-use roads.
9.	Road Layout	Ensure that pedestrian crossings are in the right place, meet modern standards and prioritise pedestrians.





“The Sustaining Choices project has worked with communities across Scotland to develop a body of evidence that demonstrates the changes they would like to see in their area regarding walking, wheeling, cycling, and public transport”.



Context

2. Purpose & Scope of the Action Plan

Sustaining Choices

- 2.1 Sustaining Choices as a project was primarily set up to support economically disadvantaged and isolated communities in urban and rural Scotland who currently underutilise, or have poor access to, sustainable transport and active travel opportunities.
- 2.2 PAS is convinced that the future of engagement in the planning system will be a hybrid of face-to-face and online approaches requiring the use of open-source, locally adaptable methods and tools, and will increasingly be citizen-led. Sustaining Choices aims to explore and refine this approach to community engagement.
- 2.3 Sustaining Choices has been funded by the Paths for All *Smarter Choices, Smarter Places* Open Fund and delivered by PAS working alongside delivery partners in each community.
- 2.4 Participating communities for this cohort of Sustaining Choices (2022-23) were Doune and Deanston (Stirling); Garnock Valley (North Ayrshire); Glasgow East End (Glasgow); Oban (Argyll and Bute); Ullapool, Lochbroom, and the surrounding area (Highland); Whiteinch and Scotstoun (Glasgow).

Figure 1: Map showing the six communities completing Sustaining Choices



Context

- 2.5 The goal of the project was to develop an increased evidence base to support sustainable transport and active travel interventions in each location. It focuses on communities at the margins or which don't have an existing evidence base, to help make decisions to promote sustainable transport in each area.
- 2.6 The following wider project outcomes were achieved:
- Enabling communities to customise the Place Standard (PS) Tool for use in Active Travel engagements using a simple, replicable framework.
 - Training 25 community facilitators (citizens, third sector and public sector workers) in delivering their own engagement processes using the Place Standard within their own communities.
 - Establishing confidence to take other processes forward, such as Local Place Plans (LPPs).
 - Developing six Active and Sustainable Travel Action Plans for communities across Scotland to use as an evidence base to develop future interventions.

- 2.7 At the core each plan consists of a vision for change broken down into a series of actions. The full list of actions can be viewed in Appendix 1.

Oban

- 2.8 Oban is a town based in Argyll and Bute with a population of approximately 8,500¹. It is the largest town between Helensburgh and Fort William and is situated on the Firth of Lorn.
- 2.9 Popular with tourists, Oban features a number of attractions including McCaig's Tower. The coastal and mountainous features of the landscape of the area are also a draw for visitors.
- 2.10 The town is based on the west of the A85. Oban is also served by a train station, with a number of ScotRail trains running between Glasgow and Oban daily. Scottish Citylink also provide connections to Glasgow as well as Dundee (via Perth) and Edinburgh (via Stirling). The town also provides important ferry connections to islands including Colonsay, Barra, Coll, and Tiree, amongst others.

¹ <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/info/population-where-we-live>



Photo credits: Ben Sunderland



Context

- 2.11 [The Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey](#) indicated around 41% of students in 2021 got to school by walking. This was followed by 30% of students travelling by bus. Thirty one per cent of students were driven to school. Rates of cycling were too low to quantify without being able to maintain the anonymity of students. Only one out of the three local primary schools completed the survey in 2021. The responses revealed in 2020 that between 31% and 49% of primary school pupils were driven to school. And between 12% and 34% of pupils walked. Data varies between schools and between 2014 and 2021.²
- 2.12 Oban is also served by the Oban Community Council who hold meetings approximately ten times a year.
- 2.13 Community Boundary for Oban:

Core Team

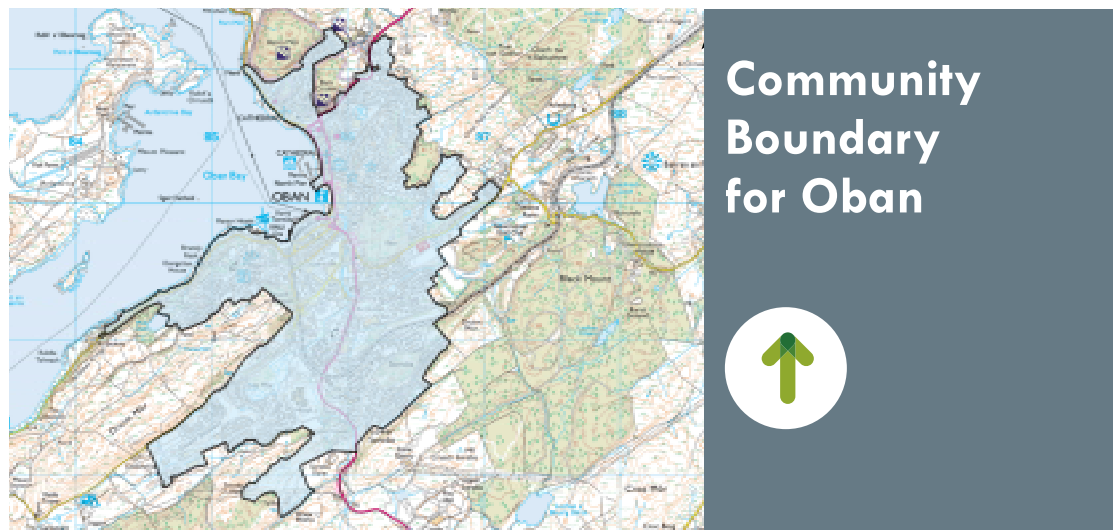
- 2.14 This Action Plan was produced by a partnership of Adventure Oban, Argyll and Bute Coast and Countryside Trust, and Argyll and Bute Council with support from PAS.
- 2.15 A core team was formed out of the partnership between the above organisations. The core team was responsible for day-to-day decisions about the engagement process, from strategy design, marketing and bookings to workshop design, selection of key actions and community-led engagement event delivery.
- 2.16 The core team consisted of Isla McCulloch and Laura Corbe, trustees of Adventure Oban (an Oban-based charity promoting equal access to the outdoors); Jamie Joyce, Project Manager of Argyll and Bute Coast and Countryside

Trust (an Argyll-wide charity with a focus on environment and sustainability); and Becky Hothersall (Community Development Officer) and Douglas Grierson (Sustainable Transport Co-ordinator) from Argyll and Bute Council. All members of the core team attended one or both of the community facilitator training sessions. All members also took active roles in designing, delivering, and capturing the engagement.

Anticipated Uses for the Action Plan

- 2.17 Following a key policy goal of the National Transport Strategy for Scotland, it is hoped that this Action Plan will be used to embed the implications of these proposals in spatial planning and land use decision making for Oban.
- 2.18 The Action Plan is also intended for use by communities and local authorities to plan changes to services and the built environment or be used as a basis for developing specific proposals. This may involve being submitted as an evidence base to help justify further funding applications for work such as feasibility studies or securing bike-storage infrastructure.

² HUSS Data for Oban



Context

3. Planning and Transport Policy Context

National Policy Context

3.1 At a national level, policy controlling active travel and sustainable transport will be framed by the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)³ and Transport Scotland's National Transport Strategy 2 (NTS2)⁴. As of November 2022, NPF4 remains in draft form to be laid before parliament, but no significant changes are expected to the draft text before adoption. Other key policy documents governing active travel and sustainable transport are listed in Appendix 2.

3.2 The draft NPF4 aims to deliver sustainable, liveable and productive places across the whole of Scotland. It states that every decision on our future development must contribute to making Scotland a more sustainable place, in part by ensuring that all future development is accessible by sustainable travel.

3.3 To this end, the intent of the dedicated policy 13 on sustainable transport (p57) is to encourage, promote and facilitate developments that prioritise walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport for everyday travel and reduce the need to

travel unsustainably. There is a recognition that reducing the need to travel unsustainably is the highest priority in the sustainable transport investment hierarchy and that the upgrading and provision of additional active travel infrastructure will be fundamental to the development of a sustainable travel network providing access to settlements, key services and amenities, employment and multimodal hubs (p108).

3.4 To this end, NPF4 states that proposals will be supported that improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-modal hubs, in particular where proposals:

- i. Provide direct, easy, segregated and safe links to local facilities via walking, wheeling and cycling networks before occupation;
- ii. Will be accessible by public transport, ideally supporting the use of existing services;
- iii. Integrate transport modes;
- iv. Provide low or zero-emission vehicle and cycle charging points in safe and convenient locations, in alignment with building standards;
- v. Supply safe, secure and convenient cycle parking to meet the needs of users and

which is more conveniently located than car parking;

- vi. Are designed to incorporate safety measures including safe crossings for walking and wheeling and reducing the number and speed of vehicles;
- vii. Have taken into account, at the earliest stage of design, the transport needs of diverse groups including users with protected characteristics to ensure the safety, ease and needs of all users; and
- viii. Adequately mitigate any impact on local public access routes.

One goal of Sustaining Choices is to communicate to developers a baseline understanding of the needs of Oban so they can develop evidenced proposals which meet these criteria.

3.5 The Scottish Government also has a national walking strategy 'Let's Get Scotland Walking'⁵ published in 2014 which aims to promote walking as a means to improve the health of the population.

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/documents/>

⁴ <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/national-transport-strategy-2/>

⁵ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/lets-scotland-walking-national-walking-strategy/pages/1/>



Context

3.6 Core aims of this policy include:

- Create a culture of walking
- Better walking environments throughout Scotland
- Ensure easy, convenient independent mobility for all.

All of these aims are corroborated by the outcomes of the Sustaining Choices engagement exercises.

3.7 More recently, the Scottish Government has closed a consultation for the 'Cycling framework for active travel'. This will build on the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (2010 – 2020) and set out strategic priorities for the next 5 – 10 years.⁶

3.8 Scotland's National Transport Strategy 2 articulates a vision for a sustainable, inclusive, safe, accessible transport system, helping deliver a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Scotland for communities, businesses and visitors. Its four priorities each have three outcomes and a series of policies to guide their implementation. Its priorities and outcomes are designed to be used as an evaluation framework to measure progress.

⁶ <https://consult.gov.scot/transport-scotland/cycling-framework/>



Photo credit: Ben Sunderland



Context

- 3.9 NTS2 acknowledges that people still face barriers when wanting to cycle or walk to their destination, and that vehicles including public transport continue to emit greenhouse gases. It commits to addressing this.
- 3.10 Regarding *inequalities*, key issues identified by NTS2 that need to be addressed regarding active travel and sustainable transport include: the risk of transport poverty for around 1 million deprived households across Scotland compounded by high costs for public transport (p10); the gendered nature of access to public transport and resultant inequalities affecting women, as well as increased safety fears when walking (p11); the barriers young people face (particularly in rural areas) regarding the availability and cost of public transport, particularly to further and higher education (p13); the need to meet the travel needs of an increasingly elderly population (p14); and the considerable barriers to travel faced by disabled people (p15). The policy also recognises divergent transport and travel issues faced by different communities across Scotland, whether urban or rural, and according to socio-economic factors. It states that “many of Scotland’s most disadvantaged communities are in cities, particularly in suburban areas. Yet, many of them are now having to travel longer distances to access employment opportunities as significant numbers of jobs tend to be in city centre locations.” (p17). But it also highlights that people in rural areas usually have to travel further to access services and tend to have more limited choices when it comes to public transport, the latter meaning that rural households tend to drive more frequently than urban households.” (p17).
- 3.11 Regarding *climate change*, NTS2 notes that a key challenge is to reduce transport impacts to help deliver the net-zero target (p20). It admits that in terms of air pollution, emissions of NOx from road transport are reducing but not at the anticipated rate (p13). It also recognises that a key challenge involves getting people to change their travel behaviour, both in terms of reducing demand for travel and how they make particular journeys, especially by encouraging walking and cycling for short journeys.
- 3.12 Regarding the *economy*, the importance of tourism is acknowledged but so too the impact that increasing number of tourists, particularly in the peak summer months, can have on the transport system. This can particularly impact rural communities, who are witnessing deteriorating road networks as traffic increases, particularly at natural and cultural attractions, with the use of much larger and heavier cars, caravans and motorhomes.
- 3.13 In terms of *health and wellbeing*, NTS2 notes that road safety is critical, and that road incidents in Scotland continue to have a significant negative impact on individuals, families and society as a whole. Similarly, all people should be able to travel without fear of crime, especially women (p37). School children can be at risk when walking to school from poor path infrastructure, especially in rural areas. Over reliance on motorised transport contributes to Scotland’s obesity culture (p38).
- 3.14 NPF4 aligns itself with NTS2 in stating that infrastructure investment should be prioritised for locations where it will achieve the preceding priorities and outcomes (reducing inequalities, taking climate action, improving health and wellbeing and helping deliver a wellbeing economy).



3.15 Table 2: Core NTS2 Policy Goals

NTS2 Priority	Key NTS2 Policies
Reduce Inequalities	Minimise the connectivity and cost disadvantages faced by those in remote rural and rural areas, including safeguarding of lifeline services.
	Ensure transport in Scotland is accessible for all by supporting the implementation and development of Scotland’s Accessible Travel Framework (specifically disabled access to buses and trains, improved wayfinding and signage).
	Remove barriers to public transport connectivity and accessibility within Scotland.
Take Climate Action	Ensure sustainable, public and active travel access to employment, education and training. Improve sustainable access to healthcare facilities for staff, patients and visitors.
	Reduce emissions generated by the transport system to mitigate climate change; reduce emissions generated by the transport system to improve air quality.
	Support management of demand to encourage more sustainable transport choices.
	Facilitate a shift to more sustainable and space-efficient modes of transport for people and goods.
Improve our health and wellbeing	Improve the quality and availability of information to enable all to make more sustainable transport choices.
	Increase safety of the transport system and meet casualty reduction targets.
Help Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth	Provide a transport system that promotes and facilitates active travel choices which help to improve people’s health and wellbeing across mainland Scotland and the Islands.
	Provide a transport system which enables businesses to be competitive domestically, within the UK and internationally.

4. Planning and Transport Policy Context

Local Policy Context

- 4.1 The Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) (one of the seven regional transport partnerships established to improve the planning and delivery of regional transport) Regional Transport Strategy Refresh (draft, May 2017) updates the 2008-22 strategy approved by Scottish ministers in 2008, articulating a vision to “deliver connectivity across the Highlands and Islands which enables sustainable economic growth and helps communities to actively participate in economic and social activities.”⁷
- 4.2 The strategy recognises that while many projects need to be delivered by a concerted effort of institutions in partnership across the region, working with local communities to tailor local responses is key. It states that it will endeavour to take a locality planning and empowerment approach to address social isolation and access deprivation at a locality-based level. In so doing, it aims to work with partners and communities to plan, design and deliver the best mix of transport for their area to address access barriers (p42).

⁷ https://hitrans.org.uk/Strategy/Regional_Transport_Strategy



Context

4.3 The strategy goes on to articulate a delivery plan (p50-51). Delivery items particularly relevant to the action points established during Sustaining Choices include:

- Approaching the road maintenance backlog on the local authority road network;
- Developing a strategy for establishing transport routes/corridors as visitor attractions including the NC500;
- Maximising the potential of the Highland rural rail routes, including journey time reductions, increased frequency and better rolling stock;
- Implementing concessionary fares, to include community transport services and local ferry, air and rail services where appropriate;
- Developing comprehensive public transport information and mapping;
- Implementing the Low Carbon Strategy;
- Implementing the Regional Active Travel Strategy.

4.4 In terms of active travel, the strategy commits to: improving integration of cycling as part of longer public transport journeys; improving walking and cycling links within the region (making the case for further financial support towards the development of improved walking and cycling links to and within towns and to employment, health, leisure and retail facilities as well as to visitor sites); the

provision of associated promotional materials, including production of high-quality, consistent mapping of routes; and supporting the provision of improved walking and cycling access at public transport interchanges (p45/6).

4.5 HITRANS acknowledges that while progress has been made in recent years in providing infrastructure, facilities and information to encourage more active travel, there is an ongoing need to offer:

- More extensive and better-quality pedestrian and cycle networks;
- Design of developments and road transport improvements which meet the needs of pedestrians and cyclists;
- Information about the networks and facilities that are available;
- Measures to increase pedestrians' and cyclists' confidence in their personal safety;
- Convenient and secure cycle parking facilities;
- Segregated cycle routes; and

4.6 General information, and promotion of active travel to continue to change attitudes. Argyll and Bute's Local Development Plan is in the process of being updated. A proposed Local Development Plan 2 currently outlines several objectives including 'High Quality Places'.

Under this objective is the intention that the next Development Plan will 'promote the creation of safe, inclusive and high-quality places where people want to live, work, invest and visit and where they are encouraged to lead active lifestyles.'⁸

4.7 Proposal A in the plan refers to a Strategic Development Framework for Oban. In relevance to this report, the proposed Strategic Development Framework includes reference to 'rationalisation of existing land uses', 'improved traffic management and parking, development of the Strategic Transport Hub', and 'investigating potential improvements to the network resilience associated with the strategic road network.'

4.8 Policy 4 focuses on Sustaining Development and outlines relevant aspirations including 'utilise public transport corridors and active travel networks'.

4.9 Policy 6 refers to Green Infrastructure including green spaces as explored during this engagement exercise.

⁸ [Argyll and Bute PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2](#)



Context



Photo credits: Ben Sunderland



- 4.10 Active travel is directly referenced under 'Connectivity' with aspirations that active travel networks improve quality of life and reduce resource consumption. Policy 32 proposes that:
- Existing active travel networks and rights of way are safeguarded and integrate with the development;
 - Active travel routes within development are delivered, as appropriate, ensuring that any special mobility and safety requirements are also addressed;
 - In all cases consideration requires to be given to the integration of active travel routes to adjoining areas, in particular to the Core Path network, Public Rights of Way, safe routes to school network, green infrastructure and to link to the foreshore and to public transport facilities. The scale and nature of the proposal and proximity of active travel routes will be taken into account by the planning authority in determining the requirement for such infrastructure, which may be subject of planning conditions or agreements.

From the review of local policy it can be concluded that there is a place for the Oban action plan for Active Travel within policy aspirations for the area. Furthermore, this plan should be able to serve as an evidence base to inform these aspirations and act as a remit for change.

Related Research and Projects

- 4.11 In 2019 the local authority carried out their own Place Standard exercise: [How Good is Your Place](#). This exercise was broad and covered all aspects of the Place Standard tool. While the Sustaining Choices exercise also used the Place Standard tool the focus was specifically on Active Travel, with emphasis given to walking, cycling, wheeling, and streets and spaces.
- 4.12 The 2019 Place Standard exercise recorded scores of 4 for both Moving Around and Streets and Spaces (with 1 meaning there is much room for improvement and 7 meaning that there is little room for improvement). Commentary from the 2019 report was echoed within this engagement exercise. Data from the Place Standard exercise have

Context

been used to inform key strategic documents for Argyll and Bute. These include informing the consultation stage of the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-34. Consultation is currently underway on this document, which will set out the Community Planning Partnership's vision for achieving long term outcomes for communities in Argyll and Bute. There are also plans to regenerate [Gibraltar Street](#) in Oban, developing the streetscape and improving access to the town centre.

- 4.13 Outwith the project boundary but still related to active travel, there has been some design work conducted for an active travel route between [Dunbeg and Connel](#). References to this route were made throughout the engagement.
- 4.14 Further, the Isle of Kerrera is also outwith the Oban boundary, but all the island residents rely on Oban for their public services, schooling, nursery, healthcare etc. The [local development trust](#) on Kerrera has recently brought in an e-bike scheme for residents which has been hugely impactful in reducing the need for short car journeys and has improved the connectivity of the island. They have also recently completed a significant project in the delivery of a new road for the

island which has also been transformational for the islanders' connectivity and access to Oban and the mainland.

- 4.15 A total of 41 classes from Oban High were surveyed using a short online survey. Due to time restrictions these responses were not included in the main data analysis. However, their feedback strongly echoed the overall engagement exercise. Out of 695 students from the 41 classes, 66% said that they regularly walked into Oban. Far fewer said that they cycled, with 7% of students responding that they often cycled into town.

'Too far' was the most common reason given by students for not walking or cycling to school. Suggestions for improved sustainable and active travel included: more cycle paths; more reliable and frequent public transport; foldable bikes in station square; access to electric scooters; and safer pavements. The full set of survey data can be accessed from the project team.

This Sustaining Choices engagement exercise chose to focus primarily on active travel with streets and spaces being captured within that focus.

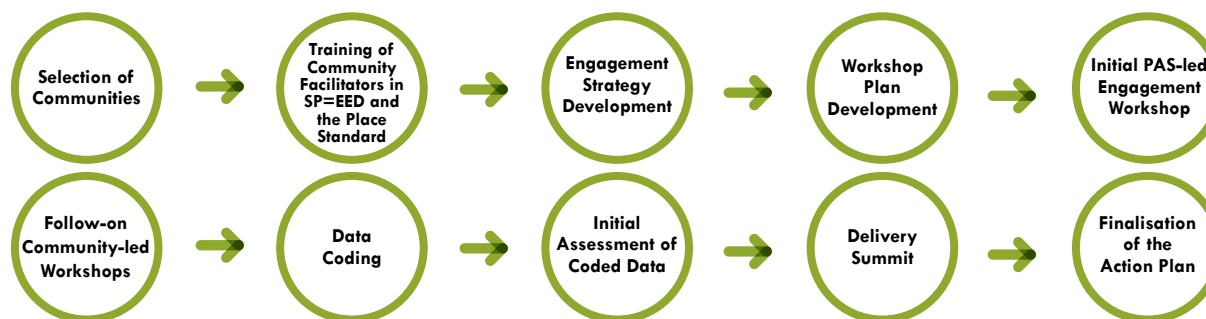


Engagement Process

5. Approach

Project Delivery – Overview

The following flow chart lays out the stages of the engagement process that was undertaken, with each stage being explained more fully in the following section.



Project Delivery – Detailed Steps

- 5.1 The following describes the various stages of the engagement process:
- 5.2 After an initial exercise to **select interested communities**, the project began by training community facilitators to engage their communities in an online environment. Trainees were a mix of local citizens and third-and public-sector co-workers.
- 5.3 **Community facilitators were trained** in engagement principles using an adapted version of PAS’s SP=EED® training.⁹ This was focused on online engagement and encouraged the core teams that had formed to begin **developing engagement strategies** for their communities (marketing, stakeholders, consultation goals). A second session then introduced the Place Standard tool¹⁰ and

- 5.4 For each community the core team **developed a workshop plan** with input from PAS. Each community selected 3-4 high level questions from the Place Standard tool. Two further questions asking about people’s high-level priorities and their suggestions for actions to implement these were included. These questions formed the basis of each engagement workshop, together with an ‘Anchor Statement’ which described the goals that each community wanted to achieve with their engagement.

- 5.5 The Anchor Statement designed by the Oban core team was as follows: “Giving Oban residents a voice to decide what should be done to make active travel choices more attractive and appealing.”
- 5.6 A simple question and response style workshop based on these questions with groups of between three and seven people in a break-out room was generally selected by each community. This simple approach was taken to make the process accessible and deliverable by community facilitators who were often on a steep learning journey. The ‘open-source’ nature of the Place Standard and its teachability made it ideal as an accessible tool to be used in this format. Details of the questions chosen by each community are given below.

⁹ <https://www.pas.org.uk/what-we-do/speed/>
¹⁰ <https://www.placestandard.scot/>



Engagement Process

- 5.7 PAS staff and volunteers then used this workshop plan to **deliver an initial engagement workshop** in each community, with core teams for each community running the bookings and publicity process. Community facilitators took the role of note-taker in each break-out room, alongside a PAS volunteer facilitator. In this capacity they were able to observe how an engagement was delivered first-hand, as the next stage of the learning journey. PAS facilitators also made sure to secure the numeric data required by the Place Standard to gain the level of improvement in a given topic area that participants felt was required.
- 5.8 Each core team then went on to deliver **engagements** on their own, either face to face or online. This was the final stage of their learning journey. They were either run as sessions open to the general public or as sessions tailored to specific groups, such as young people. Some groups also chose to create online surveys, often using Microsoft Forms, to gather data, as an additional helpful stream of information.
- 5.9 Data gathered was typed-up by scribes into a series of statements, which were passed back to PAS for processing. PAS staff took the data received and **thematized the data**,

before synthesising this information into an initial draft document of priorities and actions, along with an indicative assessment of the level of importance of each, based on response rate.

- 5.10 The draft list of actions of priorities was passed for **initial assessment** back to the core team. The core teams then worked to short-list key actions that they felt warranted deeper attention by the community.
- 5.11 Lastly, an **online delivery summit** (facilitated by PAS) was held. Nine key actions were highlighted and explored further. Discussions in break-out groups facilitated by PAS volunteers developed suggestions for delivery partners and possible first steps that could be taken.
- 5.12 The outputs from the delivery summits were then integrated into the initial draft before the **finalisation of the Action Plan**.

Marketing and Publicity

- 5.13 Engagement events were publicised by the core team using Eventbrite, Facebook, newsletters and direct marketing. Engagement also happened in public spaces offering a great opportunity to engage a broad range of people.

Attendance and Response Information

5.14 Participant and/or survey response information is given below:

Location	Event type	Date	No.
Engagement 1	Online	27 June	16
Engagement 2	On Street Engagement – Atlantis Leisure Centre	10 August	25
Engagement 3	On Street Engagement – Dungallan Park	10 August	9
Engagement 4	Ad hoc conversations with parents and other interested parties	Ad Hoc	17
Engagement 5	Access Panel	24 August	4
Engagement 6	Oban High School Survey	15 September	695 ¹¹
Engagement 7	Adventure Oban Big Bike Weekend – evening open meeting	1 October	12
Total attendance/responses during information gathering phase			778
Delivery Summit	PAS-led	1 November	22

¹¹ 41 classes were surveyed as groups. Data not included in the main data analysis exercise but summarised as part of this report.



Understanding The Issues

6. Evidence Gathering – Community Engagement

Response Data

- 6.1 An extensive Place Standard exercise was conducted across Argyll and Bute by the local Community Planning Partnership, using all 14 of the Place Standard criteria as part of their 'How Good is your Place' community engagement. Aware that there had been recent engagement using the Place Standard locally, the Oban team wished to use this opportunity to focus and achieve detail specifically regarding active travel.
- 6.2 The Place Standard was used as the basis for the engagements held during Sustaining Choices. In its full version, 14 high-level questions based on different themes are asked of groups, with follow up questions deployed to secure more precise data. During Sustaining Choices, in order to focus on themes pertinent particularly to active travel and sustainable transport, and because of the limited time available during online sessions, core teams were encouraged to choose a smaller number of the Place Standard questions to work with, as well as the final prioritisation and implementation questions. The core team in Oban therefore elected to

split the Place Standard question 1 (Moving Around) into separate discussion focusing on walking, cycling, and wheeling/mobility aids and question 4 (Streets and Spaces).

- 6.3 Following the analysis of the data, improving signage for footpaths, tidying up Oban in an ecologically sensitive way and more safe cycle routes emerged as the core issues that participants wanted to see addressed.
- 6.4 During the workshop, participants were asked to grade their community in response to each question by giving a rating on a scale from 1 to 7. When answering together, a group agrees the rating among themselves, where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement. Usually, a compass diagram is generated to graphically display the grading of the community according to that group. It is important to note that scores were only collected during the online workshop and during the school engagement (only walking and cycling) and not at any other point of the engagement.
- 6.5 Grading still took place for the chosen questions, and are given below, but the compass diagram output has not been considered appropriate because of the limited number of core questions. The following gradings for Oban are averaged.

- 6.6 Ratings by question (where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement).

Question	Rating/7
Can you easily walk quality routes in Oban?	4
What do you think of cycling in Oban?	3
Are places suitable to use with a wheelchair and a mobility aid?	3
What are people's experiences of Oban's buildings, streets and public spaces?	3.5

- 6.7 The scoring tentatively indicates some degree of satisfaction on the points discussed with, however, significant room for improvement. The Key Actions and wider Action Plan point to opportunities for such improvement.
- 6.8 Once aggregated and coded, all of the responses made by participants resulted in a series of vision headings and aims. For each aim, priorities and concrete actions for implementation have been developed.
- 6.9 The full list of actions (39) shared by the community can be found in Appendix 1, under the following topic headings: Active Travel; Bus Routes; Community Facilities; Maintenance; Other Comment; Outdoor Space; Parking; Public Realm; Public Transport; Road Layout.



Making it Happen

7. Delivery Strategy

Key Actions Identified

- 7.1 Following an assessment of all 39 potential actions identified during the information gathering stage, the core team identified nine key actions to focus on during the delivery summit.
- 7.2 Participants at the summit discussed the key actions in break-out groups and decided whether a given action could be delivered as a Quick Win, or else could be implemented in the short, medium or long term.
- 7.3 Further discussions then explored which community organisations or outside organisations could support these actions moving forward.
Each break-out group then explored appropriate first steps to implement the key actions.



Making it Happen

7.4 Key Actions: Timeframe and Delivery Partner overview

Action	Response rate	Timescale: Short/Medium/Long Term	Who could help	First steps
Introduce more safe bike routes, including to and from schools	Very High	Long term	Local authority BEAR/Transport Scotland – trunk road authority Developers Adventure Oban Users – high school & primary school students, nurseries, cycling walking groups Housing Associations ACT (Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust) NACC (North Argyll Carers Centre) BID (Business Improvement District) Sustrans HITRANS	Identify groups involved, schools, access panel, ACT, NACC, Adventure Oban, BID Identify & prioritise routes Soroba Road (from housing area to the school campus), access roads to Atlantis Identification of ownership/responsibility of road network. Focus on existing road network initially – consider easy wins with pavement widening etc. Ensure new housing developments consider connections. Linking up existing off road/on road routes – considering shared used paths
Improve the signage and lighting for active travel routes including public footpaths	Very High	Short term	Paths for All BID (Business Improvement District) Argyll and the Isles Tourism Cooperative (AITC) Wee Walk Oban Access Panel Blind Vision Local authority Landowners Housing Associations Sustrans HITRANS	Use Paths For All grading tool for identified routes so you know what to expect from the path. Have a map in town highlighting all the marked routes. Make sure signs are also accessible. Tourist/Alba involvement. QR codes for Komoot. Road signs from Soroba to campus. Establish ownership/responsibilities. Planning authority – maintenance and management.

Timeframes: Quick Win = 6 weeks; Short Term = 6 months; Medium Term = 1 – 2 years; Long Term = 3+ years

Response rates: Low = Less than 5 mentions, Medium = 5-20, High = 20-29, Very High = 30+



Making it Happen

Action	Response rate	Timescale: Short/Medium/Long Term	Who could help	First steps
Improve pavement network	High	Long term	Local authority – consultation notices. Retail park/private landowners Transport Scotland Community councils/local councillors. Police re pavement parking Housing Associations	Understanding responsibilities of roads departments Identifying lines of communication/forum for when investment is being made and when there are opportunities to feed in. Collating and delivering evidence base (this action plan) to the decision makers Identify all the pavements that need improving and prioritise.
Tidy up the general appearance of Oban including greenspace, pavements and shop fronts	High	Medium term	Keep Oban Beautiful, Communication with homeowners keeping bins in better places, Transport Scotland for main roads, BID, local authority for better (more) placement of bins	Map bins that are an obstruction/eye sore and hazard for those with limited mobility or vision. Determine who owns green spaces & what would help volunteer groups for gardening & wildlife green spaces etc.
Ensure pavements meet the needs of those with additional access needs, including disabled people	High	Medium term	Local authority Transport Scotland Housing Associations Access Panel	Engaging with Access Panel, Blind Vision group etc. already under way. Ensure all singing from the same hymn sheet and support.
Consider how access to greenspace can be improved and the quality of existing green space maximised	High	Medium term	Local authority Dungallan Park – Sailing Club/wider community/ABC Atlantis Leisure Glencruitten Estate/Greenshoots Garden/Hope Kitchen Greenspace at back of Rockfield Oban and Lorn RFC Woodland Trust Dunollie Estate Keep Oban Beautiful Paths for All Access Panel Fieldfare Trust	Identify who is responsible for green spaces. Important to expand the areas readily accessible from town so people don't have to drive to e.g. Ganavan. Keep up momentum on recent progress at Dungallan Park and Mossfield sites while working on continued improvements and investment required to these spaces.

Timeframes: Quick Win = 6 weeks; Short Term = 6 months; Medium Term = 1 – 2 years; Long Term = 3+ years

Response rates: Low = Less than 5 mentions, Medium = 5-20, High = 20-29, Very High = 30+



Making it Happen

Action	Response rate	Timescale: Short/Medium/Long Term	Who could help	First steps
Improve infrastructure for cycling	Medium	Short term	Atlantis Leisure Rockfield Centre Retail Park Local Authority Transport Scotland Live Argyll Housing Associations Paths for All Sustrans HITRANS Cycling Scotland	Identify areas that need bike locks as e.g. Cycling Scotland have funding available.
Install clear signage for narrow shared-use roads	Medium	Short term	Local authority & roads authority Transport Scotland Police Paths for All HITRANS Link up with wider campaigning groups.	Fulfil a needs assessment. Enforcement?
Ensure that pedestrian crossings are in the right place, meet modern standards and prioritise pedestrians	Medium	Medium term	Local authority Transport Scotland Access Panel Blind Vision group HITRANS	Access Panel already moving forward with this one. Submission of needs being made.

Timeframes: Quick Win = 6 weeks; Short Term = 6 months; Medium Term = 1 – 2 years; Long Term = 3+ years

Response rates: Low = Less than 5 mentions, Medium = 5-20, High = 20-29, Very High = 30+



Making it Happen

Next Steps

- 7.5 The Strategic Transportation team and other partners/funders will use this plan to better understand what are the active travel priorities in Oban and who are the key stakeholders. The Action Plan will also serve as evidence of support for projects. It will be very useful as supporting documentation in funding applications and to inform community-led development such as Community Action Plans or Local Place Plans.
- 7.6 Correspondence regarding the implementation of this Action Plan should be directed to hello@adventureoban.org



Appendices

Appendix 1

The Action Plan

Full list of actions suggested by community during engagement events

Key Action	Notes/Detail
Primary theme – Active Travel (AT)	
1. Improve active travel routes for wheelchair users and buggies etc.	
Ensure pavements meet the needs of those with additional access needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict parking by dropped kerb at exit of little lane at Millpark • Reducing obstacles and incorporating dropped kerbs (i.e. where the green foot bridge over the rail track comes out at Soroba & at Soroba bus stops). • For example, at Station Square appropriately colour coded dimple paving should be installed at the table top feature on the vehicular approach. Further, the shared (level) surface makes this area very difficult to navigate for those with visual impairments (e.g. guide dogs are trained to follow a raised kerb and will stop only at an upstand). • Gibraltar Street (currently under consultation and earmarked for investment)
2. Improve access to multi-modal paths, including cycle routes	
Improve pavement network connectivity	<p>Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulpit Road • Soroba Road • Between Dungallan Park and Calmac Pier • Rockfield Road • Pedestrian routes to McCaig's Tower • Glenshellach Terrace • Laurel Crescent to Hazeldene Crescent • Glencruitten Road • Route to High School • Glenshellach to High School • Catalina Avenue to Hayfield • To Tesco and Homebase (across the retail park in general) • Roads to Gallanach and Ganavan • Reinstate old right of way out the back of Wee Ganavan • Tesco and Gibraltar Street (currently under consultation and earmarked for investment) • Open a short cut between the ferry terminal and the station car park for pedestrians & bikes



Appendices

Key Action	Notes/Detail
Pavements could be widened in some areas to improve safety and accessibility	Suggestions include widen the footway on A85 opposite Croft Road, below the Eventide home and on George Street pavements
Improve safety on key roads	<p>Rockfield Road Consider incorporating 'pedestrian refuges' that pedestrians can step into to allow cars to pass.</p> <p>Soroba Road Full pavement connectivity for pedestrians to schools and the hospital. Explore the possibility of an offroad or 'quiet road' cycle path from Glencruitten to Soroba as current road is a significant barrier to cycling south out of town at the moment.</p> <p>Glencruitten Road Improved pavement connectivity and better street lighting to Mossfield area (as a minimum).</p> <p>Ganavan Road Signage of shared use of the road with pedestrians and cyclists, speed limit enforcements. Explore alternative off road/path options.</p>
Improve maintenance of paths and pavements	<p>Examples included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'chicken run' route • Jacob's Ladder • The wooden steps on the path from Kilbowie to Ardbahn Crags • Broken water ways at the top of Craigard Road • Path from Glenshallach Terrace down to Tesco carpark
Police training on cycle safety	
Promote Oban as an active town and active space	
3. Develop a culture that promotes safe active travel	
Introduce behaviour change initiative for both drivers and cyclists to improve safety for road users	
Have police patrol on bikes	
4. Improve facilities for cycling	
Provide opportunities to learn about safe ways to cycle	Bikeability is now being delivered by Live Argyll in A&B schools, encourage uptake of this, linking with community-led bike events delivered by Adventure Oban/ACT
Improve infrastructure for cycling	<p>At key points in town the Retail Park, Atlantis Leisure, The Rockfield Centre, the Hospital, etc.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure bike parking • More places to lock bikes • Charging points for e-bikes • Parking outside of town and showers for people to cycle into work • Water fountains



Appendices

Key Action	Notes/Detail
5. Develop comprehensive and safe cycle routes	
Introduce more safe bike routes including to and from schools	<p>Potential locations could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To high school to Rockfield primary school campus • South Pier to Dungallan & Gallanach • The Oban town end of the CalMac pier has a short barrier to allow bikes to pass The same at the other side of the terminal building would make a bike route to Pulpit Hill/Gallanach easier avoiding the ferry foot passenger area • War Memorial to Ganavan • Oban hill • Pulpit hills • Quarry road to Mossfield Drive (and other parts of Glencruitten Road) • Ganavan Road • From the primary school campus south out of town to Kilmore • Develop safer cycle route to Atlantis that avoids the Bealach-an-Righ, possible contraflow for bikes on (currently one way) Breadalbane Street as an option • Remove street parking to accommodate bike lane on the one way system in town • Explore connecting Star Brae/Stevenson Street with Market Street for bikes (thus connecting Longsdale to the high school avoiding the trunk road) • Make Market Street two way for bikes • Connect the bike route from “The Summit” (by Achnalarraig Stable) to Polvinister Road
Keep existing cycle paths clear and well maintained (including mountain bike trails)	Regular community-led cycling events like Adventure Oban’s Big Bike Weekend can bring volunteers together to support with this, especially mountain bike trails.
Allow concession from police when cycling on pavements	Particularly if roads are less safe (e.g. A85) and one-way roads e.g. Breadalbane Street



Appendices

Key Action	Notes/Detail
6. Develop more signage and information about routes	
Improve the signage and lighting for active travel routes including public footpaths	<p>Potential routes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The path from Kilbowie to Ardbahn Craigs • Glencruitten woods • To the beaches (wee Ganavan & Ganavan)* • Corran halls to war memorial via The Witches* • To SAMS • Up to the Hydro <p>Multiple routes to McCaigs Tower (current signs point walkers up Hill Road which has no pavement and is already difficult to negotiate without pedestrians)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulpit Hill • Pulpit Drive to Glenmore Road • Glenshellach to the hospital & campuses* • Between Lynn Road and Millpark Road* • Golf course • Birchwood to Mossfield* • Develop clearer signage to the bike paths in and around town centre the regularly used footways linking George street and the Esplanade on either side of the Regent Hotel* <p>* <i>Better lighting was specifically mentioned on these routes</i></p>
<p>Improve signage at Station Square for key walking and cycling routes from town</p> <p>Develop a boardwalk from Oban to Ganavan</p>	
Primary theme – Bus Routes (BR)	
7. Improve options for accessing bus travel	
Trial a free shuttle bus day/week from Ganavan to Gallanach or Soroba to help get people back on buses & gauge interest in routes	
Review suitability of bus stops	Review the location of bus stops, the seating in bus stops and also the proximity of drop kerbs, especially in Soroba
Primary theme – Community Facilities (CF)	
8. Consider the use of properties and public spaces	
Develop bad weather public spaces	Opportunities for more community-led activities at Corran Halls, Rockfield Centre etc.



Appendices

Key Action	Notes/Detail
Primary theme – Maintenance (M)	
9. Address issues regarding general care and maintenance in an area	
Tidy up the general appearance of Oban including greenspace, pavements and shop fronts	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting away bins which, as well as an eyesore are a hazard for those with limited mobility and vision • Clearing litter • Improving pavements • Improving shop fronts • Improving the regularly used footways linking George street and the Esplanade on either side of the Regent Hotel • Improve appearance of Jacobs Ladder • Cutting back overgrown trees
Primary theme – Other Comment (OC)	
10. Consider the development of a car club scheme	
Develop a car sharing scheme or car club	
Primary theme – Outdoor Space (OS)	
11. Better understand, maintain, and manage green spaces	
Consider how access to green and natural spaces can be improved	Areas include Corran Halls, Dungallan Park and the green space at the top of Craigard Road, McCaigs Tower, the Hydro, the block above The Rockfield Centre and an area outside Mark Dan's Clarify ownership of these and other areas and explore if/support local groups to take ownership Acknowledge progress made at sites like Dungallan Park and Mossfield while keeping up momentum for further investment and improvement in these vital spaces
Maximise the quality of existing green and natural spaces	Maximise the quality of existing green spaces and natural spaces to support biodiversity, to be safe, well maintained and provide multiple functions and amenities to meet the varying needs of all groups
12. Development of a skatepark or similar	
Develop a skate park/pump track/skills park to build kids confidence on bikes/scooters etc.	
Primary theme – Parking (P)	
13. Improve parking provision.	
Better management of parking in Oban including offering more free parking. Manage over-parking at the bottom of Pulpit Road	This was not a focus of the study, but it was felt that it was very much an enabler



Appendices

Key Action	Notes/Detail
Primary theme – Public Realm (PR)	
14. Consider changes which make public spaces more comfortable and accessible	
Make shops and facilities more accessible by promoting push, rather than pull doors	This makes access easier especially for those using wheelchairs or other mobility aids
Provide better seating in public places	Dungallan Park, area in front of Markie Dan's, Station Square, and going up hills
Improve green spaces by offering more amenities including public toilets	Noted that the community campaign to keep the Ganavan toilets open over the winter has made that crucial greenspace much more accessible to all members of the community
Install better signage to toilets at Station Square	
Primary theme – Public Transport (PT)	
15. Improve access to public transport	
Improve public transport and make easier to use.	
Advise passengers of the adventure carriage that it costs extra to sit in the bike carriage	
Primary theme – Road Layout (RL)	
16. Consider changes to roads to improve efficiency and safety	
Consider one way system on Oban Hill which may allow bus access to this area which is currently not serviced.	
Refresh road markings.	e.g. speed limit signs. Areas noted were at the Laurel Road and Ardconnel Road intersection
Ensure that pedestrian crossings are in the right place, meet modern standards and prioritise pedestrians.	Specifically, reassess the location of the pedestrian crossing near the Oban Inn and consider relocating to nearer the previous location outside the tourist office so that the footway is not blocked by people waiting to cross. Crossings which need modernised include the A85 George St, Esplanade, Corran Halls and A816 Fire Station. Pedestrian crossing at Lidl does not comply with regulations, consider moving to opposite Dunmar Court.
Install clear signage for narrow shared-use roads.	Areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Pier to Dungallan & Gallanach • War Memorial to Ganavan • Oban hill roads • Pulpit hill • Quarry road to Mossfield Drive (and other parts of Glencruitten Rd)
Manage the volume of traffic in Oban. Consider alternative solutions to reduce vehicle numbers travelling through and parking in Oban i.e. Oban Ring Road	



Appendices

Appendix 2

Key National Policy Documents

Let's Get Scotland Walking – The National Walking Strategy (Scottish Government, 2014) – <https://www.gov.scot/publications/lets-scotland-walking-national-walking-strategy/pages/1/>

Scotland's Fourth National Planning Framework – revised draft (2022) – <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/documents/>

National Transport Strategy 2 (Transport Scotland, Feb. 2020) – <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/national-transport-strategy-2/>

National Walking Strategy (2014) – <https://www.gov.scot/publications/lets-scotland-walking-national-walking-strategy/>

Active Travel Task Force Delivery Plan (Transport Scotland, 2019) – <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/active-travel-taskforce-delivery-plan/>

Active Travel Framework (Transport Scotland, 2019) – <https://www.transport.gov.scot/active-travel/active-travel-framework/>

Transport and Poverty in Scotland, Report of the Poverty and Inequality Commission (June 2019) – <https://bit.ly/3j5Lwir>

Cycling Action Plan for Scotland 2017-2020 (Transport Scotland, 2017) – <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/cycling-action-plan-for-scotland-2017-2020/>

Scotland's Accessible Travel Framework Our Delivery Plan for 2019-2020 (Transport Scotland, 2019) – <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/scotland-s-accessible-travel-framework-delivery-plan-for-2019-2020/>

Key Local Policy Documents

The Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) Regional Transport Strategy Refresh – https://hitrans.org.uk/Strategy/Regional_Transport_Strategy

HITRANS Active Travel Strategy (2018) – https://hitrans.org.uk/Documents/HITRANS_ReACTS_Active_Travel_Strategy.pdf

Argyll and Bute's Local Development Plan (Proposed) – <https://argyll-bute.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=36b54584028245019f8edca605511213>

How good is your place – results: Oban (Argyll and Bute Council, 2019) – <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/how-good-your-place-results>







Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership**Oban, Lorn and the Isles
Area Community Planning Group****8 February 2023**



Community Planning Partnership Management Committee Update

This briefing relates to the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee which was held on 7th December 2022. The briefing is for noting and relevant discussion.

Summary

The CPP Management Committee met on the 7th December 2022 with the meeting being held virtually. This update provides an overview of the discussion which took place.

Reports which were discussed at the meeting can be found here [Browse meetings - Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership - Management Committee - Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

HIGHLIGHTS**Matters Arising from Area Community Planning Groups**

- An update was provided on the discussions which had taken place at all 4 Area Community Planning Groups during the November 2022 cycle of meetings. The meetings had been well attended with a variety of interesting presentations given. Of particular interest was the appointment Ryan McIntyre, MSYP to the position of Vice Chair of the OLI Community Planning Group; the update from Stan Phillips regarding actions to take forward to address the climate emergency and the report by The Centre for Economics and Business Research that had been commissioned to better understand the needs of ferry users, island communities, and the economic and social value of Hebridean and Clyde ferry services.
- The Management Committee noted the current situation regarding the status of some Community Councils that have changed following the elections on 20 October 2022 and that Committee Services had been representing the Returning Officer at associated inaugural meetings. It was noted that new Community Councils would be invited to attend their associated Area Community Planning Group.

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Climate Change

Stan Philips provided a brief update report on the work of the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG). Stan advised that work is currently ongoing to secure funding for a Climate Change Project Manager to take forward the development of a climate change action plan, with £90k of the required £120k secured.

Financial Inclusion and Child Poverty

Mandy Sheridan advised that the 3rd Child Poverty Action Plan review would be published shortly. She noted the production of a one page graphic child friendly version of the plan would be used for engagement, which would link to resources, further help and information.

The Argyll and Bute Data Cost of Living Crisis Group is looking at mapping data factors to a geographic map, cross referenced between 2 date periods, to pinpoint those most in need. Interest has also been submitted in the area becoming part of a pilot project by the Improvement Service to cross reference SEEMIS data with Council Tax Reduction claimants in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation zones.

A report produced for the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights in October, analysed 10 of last year's Local Authority action plans (including Argyll and Bute's). The report made 5 key findings - most lacked any focus on race despite links between ethnicity and poverty and information on current action to address Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) child poverty, existing plans focus primarily on gypsy/travellers, Local Authorities acknowledge poverty for BAME families yet this did not lead to actions and issues with lack of data available at a national level are exacerbated at local level.

Community Wealth Building (CWB)

Takki Sulaiman on behalf of the Argyll and Bute TSI advised that the Board have agreed substantial funds for research to cover 3 main strands - drawing together existing strategies, identifying best practice suitable to Argyll and Bute's geography and virtual food hubs . It was agreed that an advisory panel would be established with a full proposal and draft statement for anchor institutions (including what this means) to be considered at the next meeting.

There was some discussion around the merit of this work, specifically that it helps to establish the wellbeing context of the area (the diverse and different needs, not a one size fits all). The importance of funding was also highlighted.

Building Back Better

Kirsty Moyes advised that she would be leading on work regarding the impact of the pandemic and that an engagement exercise would soon begin that would ask participants to discuss themes and make informed choices in their top 3 priorities. Work is also ongoing looking at training needs in communities and reviewing the micro grants scheme that enabled the council to distribute funding to village halls impacted at the height of the pandemic.

Review of ABOIP (including Results of Consultation by MSYPs)

Rona Gold updated the Management Committee on the approach being taken to review the Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan (ABOIP). Research by the team has identified key priorities within Argyll and Bute (including digital, transport, housing, climate etc.), the consultation survey will ask responders to rank their top 3 priorities from these. The survey will be open until the end of January 2023 and links to the survey and a QR code has been sent to partners. A focus groups will be established during the early part of spring to explore the outcomes of the engagement which will form the priorities over the next 10 years in Argyll and Bute.

Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) engaged with youth to determine what is important to young people. With around 900 responses received half of young people felt that their area was run down and felt they had no opportunity to have their voices heard. Climate concern and lack of meaningful or appropriate mental health support are also key issues for young people.

Digital Communities

Iain MacInnes advised the R100 project has started successfully making live connections across Argyll and Bute, and this will ramp up significantly over the next few years although there are significant challenges and expense in rolling out a full fibre programme. Iain is in contact with Openreach to engage with roads and planning services to streamline the process and find innovative solutions to mitigate any potential delays or disruption.

Work continues on the Scottish Government 4g programme - there are now 3 of 9 sites live across the area to target 4g "not-spots". This is a £1b project by the Scottish Government, UK Government and the mobile industry (Cornerstone, O2 and EE). Iain met with the shared rural network team recently to find solutions to accelerate the programme to build 11 remote sites in Argyll and Bute, which is to be completed by 2024. Digital hubs have also secured £11k funding from the Island Infrastructure Fund to develop hubs across 4 islands.

Community Justice Partnership Annual Report

Mary Holt spoke to the recently submitted Community Justice Annual Report, adding that Community Justice applies to all involved in or affected by the justice system and the Community Justice Scotland Act 2016. The local model for community justice aims to deliver an extensive change programme centred on increasing prevention of offending/reoffending through improved leadership and collaboration;

evidencing and delivering improved outcomes; learning, development and innovation; and workforce development across multi-agency statutory partners.

A Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan, due to be published in April 2023, will align with the Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan and is dependent on the Outcome Performance Framework from the Community Justice National Strategy and the geographic diversity in Argyll and Bute.

Local Transport Strategy and Case for Change

The Management Committee noted that the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) are keen to attend a meeting in the New Year to discuss their regional transport strategy (the timeline, what they are doing and what it involves are detailed in the paper).

For further information, please contact:

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