
Agenda Item

Community Engagement in the MAKI CPG area.

1. Purpose

Following a discussion which took place at the MAKI Area Committee meeting held in June, this report seeks to outline the mechanisms for community input to the Area Community Planning Group across the MAKI area. It also asks the Area CPG to give consideration to whether the current mechanisms are working well and discuss the options for ensuring that all communities in the MAKI area have the opportunity to feed into the Community Planning process.

2. Recommendations

The Area Community Planning Group is asked to note the contents of the report and to have discussion on the future engagement mechanisms for communities in the MAKI area.

3. Background

The Council's MAKI Area Committee held its most recent meeting in early June 2015 on the Isle of Jura. The meeting was attended by some of the local community and during the discussions, Members of the Area Committee asked about the mechanisms that are in place for island communities to have their voice heard as part of the community planning process and specifically how these communities can feed their views into the MAKI Area CPG. They also asked for clarification on how groups who have specific community projects can have these recognised for possible inclusion into the SOA local documents.

4. Detail

The MAKI CPG meets 4 times a year, with meetings held at various venues across the MAKI area, including one meeting per year in an island location. Community engagement in the MAKI area is also undertaken through the Mid Argyll Partnership (MAP) meetings, which cover the Mid Argyll area and through the Kintyre Initiative Partnership (KIP) meetings which cover the Kintyre area. Both of these groups are core partners on the MAKI CPG and the Chair of these groups attends the CPG meetings. Meetings of MAP and KIP have also been rescheduled to allow for better alignment of their agendas to feed in to the CPG meetings. Historically, there has not been a similar type group for the island communities in the MAKI area.

The input of the local community is a key factor in the delivery of community planning, and as such it is important that all of our communities feel that they have a voice and are able to make a valuable contribution to the process. Recently, however, there has not been the same level of engagement with community planning from our local community representatives (primarily the local Community Councils), in fact at the last MAKI CPG there were no Community Councils in attendance. While at the meetings of MAP and KIP the community representation is also a cause for concern.

5. Conclusions

Engagement with local communities is a key driver for the community planning process and as such it is important that appropriate mechanisms are in place to support this. The Area CPG is asked to review the current mechanisms to support this process and consider how island communities can be better engaged.

6. SOA Outcomes

This report links to the administrative arrangements for area community planning.

For further information, please contact Shirley Macleod, Area Governance Manager, (01369) 707134.