

Outcome 2: We have infrastructure that supports growth

This outcome focuses on the following infrastructure; housing, town centres, road transport, other modes of transport (air, ferries, rail, piers and harbours), utilities (electricity grid and water and sewerage network) and IT/ICT (mobile phone and broadband). This will deliver better connectivity in order to drive forward sustainable economic growth and grow our population.

The key strategies and plans supporting the delivery of this outcome at an Argyll & Bute level include: Proposed Strategic Infrastructure Plan, Local Development Plan, Economic Development Action Plan, Renewable Energy Action Plan, Roads Asset Management and Maintenance Strategy, Scottish Ferries Plan, Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-18, CHORD programme/TIF, HIE Operating Plan Next generation broadband.

The following strategic partnerships are supporting the delivery of this outcome: Argyll and Bute Strategic Housing Forum, Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust, ABRA, Community Broadband Scotland, Digital Scotland Hi-Trans.

Main areas of focus for Helensburgh & Lomond included within this outcome:

- The transport connectivity across Argyll and Bute is improved
- The digital connectivity across Argyll and Bute is improved
- To ensure that housing supports future economic success and a growing population
- To secure a sustainable and vital future for our town centres

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SOA Code	SOA Delivery Plan Action	Activity on the Ground	Timescale
2.1.1	To support Transport Scotland with their planned improvement works to the A82, A83 and A85	Lobby for permanent solution on Rest and Be Thankful as per council decision November meeting.	December 2014
		Input to the focus groups for the A82 improvements north of Tarbet	Ongoing
		Quarterly Co-ordination Meetings with Transport Scotland re trunk and local road issues.	On-Going (schedule of quarterly meetings)
2.1.2	To produce a Local Development Plan Action Plan with a focus on economic growth for Argyll and Bute covering essential services, connectivity including road, integrated transport, rail, ferries, ports, air, active travel, digital technology and grid. CHORD, TIF and Maritime Change Programme.	Draft Action Programme has been produced. It will be amended in FQ1 & 2 of 2015 to reflect adopted LDP.	Mid-end of 2015
2.1.4	Establish Green Networks in each of our Main Towns	Draft networks reported to Sept PPSL & consultation in Jan 15	Adoption as Supplementary Guidance summer/autumn 2015
2.2.1	Deliver the roll out of high speed next generation broadband	BT are delivering their commercial rollout in parts of the Helensburgh exchange area.	

		Coverage through the Rest of Scotland exchange areas is expected to reach premises in the Arrochar, Cardross, Clynder, Garelochhead, Helensburgh, Kilcreggan, Luss and Rhu exchange areas	2015-2016
		Community Broadband Scotland working with communities unlikely to benefit from the above programmes	2017
		A pilot project to deliver town centre Wi-Fi to Helensburgh is being progressed	2014-15
2.2.2	Work with key agencies to improve coverage and quality of mobile phone signals	The Council continues to work with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in relation to the Mobile Infrastructure Project, a number of possible sites have been identified for Argyll and Bute but there is no confirmation as to which will be able to be delivered.	2016
2.3.1	Influencing the scale and the speed of the investment in the grid	ABRA continues to press for improvements to the grid infrastructure to assist in the delivery of renewable energy projects across Argyll and Bute however physical improvements can only be implemented once demand from consented additional energy generation is sufficient to justify the investment. ABRA is pressing National Grid and SSE, as the distribution network operator, for the roll out of active network management (AMN) as early as possible. There are no plans for improvements to the infrastructure within the HL area as far as we are aware.	Ongoing. Study by National Grid in relation to ANM expected end of 2015.

		The Highlands and Islands Local Energy Consortium is supporting work in relation to Local Energy Economies to overcome grid constraints	2014-15
2.4.1	To preserve and expand the supply of good quality housing units across all tenures to enable population growth.	Operation of the local Area Property Action Group.	Ongoing
		Empty Homes work with private owners.	Ongoing
		Advice & assistance to local landlords and private owners on property improvements and energy efficiency measures.	Ongoing
2.6.1	To undertake Action Plans for each of our six Main Town Centres	A Team Town model is being developed to bring together Council services and other partners with a view to identifying the issues in each of our town and developing an action plan to address these. This approach will be piloted in Dunoon and if successful will be rolled out to other towns.	The initial report and recommendations for Dunoon are due early 2016, any activity in HL would follow this.