

Outcome 1: The economy is diverse and thriving

This outcome focuses on business growth, sustainability and start up. Tourism, marine science, renewables, digital economy and food and drink are the key sectors which will be developed through this outcome

The key strategies and plans supporting the delivery of this outcome at an Argyll & Bute level include: Argyll and Bute Local Housing Strategy; Argyll and Bute Skills Pipeline, Argyll and Bute Youth Employment Activity Plan; Argyll Voluntary Action Strategic Plan; CHORD / CARS programme; TIF programme; Economic Development Action Plan; Scottish Government Economic Strategy; Highlands and Islands Enterprise Operating Plan; Local Development Plan Opportunities for All Development Plan; Renewable Energy Action Plan; Roads Asset Management and Maintenance Strategy; Scottish Enterprise Operating Plan; Scottish Ferries Plan; Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-18; Strategic Infrastructure Plan (proposed).

The following strategic partnerships are supporting the delivery of this outcome: Argyll and Bute Renewables Alliance; Argyll and the Isles Strategic Tourism Partnership; Argyll and Bute Employability Partnership; Third Sector and Communities Strategic Partnership

Main areas of focus for Oban, Lorn and the Isles included within this outcome:

- To achieve business growth and additional employment opportunities
- To ensure our towns, villages and rural communities are economically dynamic, sustainable and connected building on their distinct opportunities
- To ensure that Argyll and Bute is recognised nationally and internationally as a location for marine education, research and business
- To ensure we have a thriving, sustainable renewable energy sector with well-developed local supply chains and community benefits
- To ensure we have a robust tourism sector with an extended season, a higher value proposition and increased turnover
- To create an environment where levels of entrepreneurship are increase

Outcome 1 – the economy is diverse and thriving

SOA Code	SOA Delivery Plan Action	Activity on the Ground	Timescale
1.1.2	Support an increase in international trade through more businesses trading internationally and businesses increasing international turnover	£1.3M pa estimated increase in International Sales across Argyll & Bute as a result of approvals this year.	Ongoing
1.1.4	Support Business Growth (including social enterprise) through HIE / SE account management and Business Gateway (BG)	64 organisations account managed across Argyll & Bute, 6 of which were referrals from BG	Ongoing
1.1.7	Ensure businesses are ready to take advantage of the opportunities offered by improved Broadband speeds	New courses to be run by Business Gateway and/or Scottish Enterprise in a number of areas across Argyll and Bute	On-going support throughout 2015 - 2017
1.2.5	Undertake a scoping / feasibility study on positioning Oban as a university town.	The scoping study has been completed and this has identified a number of high level/early actions which have been agreed.	Ongoing
1.2.6	Deliver Community Account Management model to support sustainable growth and community empowerment	6 CAM Action Plans in place across Argyll & Bute.	Ongoing
1.4.1	Increase awareness of marine employment, education and business opportunities through engagement with SAMS and all local stakeholders	A number of leads are still being pursued following attendance at Aquaculture UK. A report on the Argyll marine economy is to be commissioned.	Ongoing
1.4.2	Secure tenants for Malin House Dunstaffnage, European Marine Science Park,	2 tenants have been secured and are in place. Further marketing of	Ongoing

		the opportunities is being undertaken	
1.5.3	Support the development of the local energy supply chain	3 events have been attended to increase the profile of Argyll & Bute and provide opportunities to local suppliers.	Ongoing
1.6.1	Secure and maintain ongoing sustainability of the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative Ltd (AITC) (trading arm of AISTP) to further develop the tourism value chain linked to the area's unique heritage, provenance and authenticity.	Local destination management groups have received support to engage support staff.	Ongoing
1.6.2	Create partnership structures with the capacity and desire to develop the culture and heritage sector to maximise the unique opportunities provided by the unique culture and heritage of the area.	14 account managed tourism sector organisations across Argyll & Bute.	Ongoing
1.6.3	Support the delivery of high quality tourism experiences across Argyll and Bute	15 account managed Food & Drink sector organisations across Argyll & Bute.	Ongoing
1.6.4	Build upon the local food and drink offering	3 events have been attended to increase the profile of Argyll & Bute and provide opportunities to local suppliers.	Ongoing
1.7.1	To provide support business starts in each of the four council administrative areas.	Business Gateway Advisors will provide support and advice to business starts ups within the area	On-going Business Gateway support throughout 2015 – 2017
1.8.3	To optimise public sector employment and training opportunities including work experience, apprenticeships, graduate placements, research, etc.	10 current Graduate Placements across Argyll & Bute.	Ongoing
		A study is being commissioned to identify increased opportunities for public sector employment. This is a direct SOA action	March 2015

1.8.4	Optimise local benefits through public sector procurement process through continued usage of supplier development programme, utilising community benefit clauses where appropriate	PV Panel Installation Education Properties (Non-NPDO): Contractor-led presentations within the relevant schools after completion of the works involved in this contract, to raise awareness of the benefits of Solar PV Panels	TBA – Presentations to start from January 2015
		Provision of Addiction Recovery Services: the Council would wish to see the contractor(s) for the Provision of Addiction Recovery Services, provide where appropriate, young person engagement. Under this contract, the Council would expect to work with the successful contractor(s) to organise contractor-led presentations within the Argyll and Bute schools to raise awareness of addiction to alcohol and drugs.	Ongoing