

Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a briefing on the Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) to be developed for Argyll and Bute. It will take an integrated approach to delivering strategic development opportunities identified through the Local Development Plan and Economic Development Action Plan that can help deliver a step change in economic activity in the area. The scope and purpose of the SIP is described along with proposed consultation and proposed timetable.

Argyll and Bute Council and Community Planning Partners have developed a series of strategic plans which aim to set out the vision, priorities and objectives for Argyll and Bute over the next ten years. In essence the SIP will be a distillation of these plans, creating a succinct and easily read single document which can be used to highlight and advocate the important opportunities and challenges within Argyll and Bute.

All relevant existing plans will be audited to see where goals are likely to be achieved by currently planned or identified infrastructure projects led by either Argyll and Bute Council or other stakeholder partners. Gaps will also be identified where projects need to be further developed to better meet the key goals as identified in the Economic Development Action Plan and Local Development Plan, which both align with the Single Outcome Agreement.

Developing the proposed Argyll and Bute Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) will allow Argyll and Bute Council and partners to place renewed focus on what aspects of these strategies and key sites should be prioritised for delivery. It will direct joint working, identifying the strategic actions required, to help deliver a step change in economic activity within Argyll and Bute.

The SIP will also form the foundation for an economic case for additional funding being directed towards Argyll and Bute. The SIP will also promote the key locations and opportunities for developers and inward investment, and would be used to support the inclusion of significant projects in the next National Planning Framework.

Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) Update

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report provides a briefing on the Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) to be developed for Argyll and Bute. The scope and purpose of the SIP is described along with proposed consultation and proposed timetable.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that Members note this briefing paper on the Argyll and Bute Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP).

4.0 DETAILS

Scope and Purpose

4.1 Argyll and Bute Council and Community Planning Partners have developed a series of strategic plans which aim to set out the vision, priorities and objectives for Argyll and Bute over the next ten years.

- Argyll and Bute Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2013-2023
- The Strategic and Area Economic Development Action Plans (EDAP)
- Local Development Plan, Adopted March 2015
- Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP)

4.2 The Strategic Infrastructure Plan will clearly identify and prioritise infrastructure and development projects which will support the delivery of key economic goals for Argyll and Bute and will identify ways in which these priority projects could be funded. It will also identify the strategic infrastructure requirements of the key sites; provide costings where known or the need for them where not, and identify the partners required to enable delivery. The strategic sites identified in the Local Development Plan have the capacity to deliver a step change in economic activity within Argyll and Bute. In essence the SIP will be a distillation of these plans, creating a succinct and easily read single document which can be used to highlight and advocate the important opportunities and challenges within Argyll and Bute.

4.3 The SIP will identify all types of infrastructure priorities. These will include priorities for traditional infrastructure (e.g improvements to transport facilities and telecommunication/digital networks), social infrastructure (e.g improvements for

social housing, health facilities, educational establishments) and elements of promotional activity that increases the profile of Argyll and Bute to potential investors, visitors and residents.

It will also take an integrated approach to delivering the key sites. In addition strategic development opportunities were identified through the Local Development Plan process that can help deliver a step change in economic activity in the area. These are in effect the key sites, and a co-ordinated approach from a range of partners is required to tackle a range of infrastructure issues and deliver on their potential contribution to the Argyll and Bute economy.

- 4.4 The SIP will also form the foundation for an economic case for additional funding being directed towards Argyll and Bute. The SIP will be key in attracting capital investment for infrastructure. The SIP will also promote the key development opportunities to developers and can be used to support the inclusion of significant projects in the next National Planning Framework.

Consultation

- 4.5 As this document is essential a synthesis of existing plans, the focus for consultation will be on agreeing which elements of which documents need to be included, what problems need to be overcome to deliver them, and how to present them to best effect in terms of making an attractive and persuasive offer / argument.
- 4.6 Following initial consultation between Economic Development, Planning and other relevant services of the Council, and thorough analysis of the relevant documents, a draft identification of key infrastructure projects and development areas will be drawn up. This will be presented to Members for agreement and also the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee.

The second stage will be to develop the details of how these projects will be delivered, identifying key external partners where appropriate. This might include Regional Transport Partners, HIE/SE, Scottish Water, Transport Scotland, SEPA, community partners and statutory consultees identified by the Planning Service. The focus at this stage will be to identify and discuss key delivery issues so that they can be highlighted in the document, not what are appropriate projects and sites as this has already been determined through the work of the Local Development Plan and other studies. Much of this information will already be known but there will be a need to prioritise critical projects that will help to grow our population and the local economy.

- 4.7 The final format and content of the SIP will be approved by Members and hopefully agreed by Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership. Having agreement from partners and as much cost information as possible included, will greatly improve the chances of the document assisting delivery.

Proposed Timetable

4.8 The following timescale is proposed for developing the SIP

Stage 1

March – June 2016

Analysing existing documents, identifying key projects and sites, and agreeing this list with Members

Stage 2

May- September 2016

Identifying with partners the key issues to be addressed in delivering the projects and sites, potential solutions, costs, and organisational responsibilities.

Stage 3

May-September 2016

Where possible identifying funding Options

Stage 4

Oct – November 2016

Finalising the SIP and presenting to Members and Community Planning Partners

Stage 5

Dec 16 – Feb 2017

Arranging for professional quality printing of the document, appropriate dissemination, and creation of a sister web document and updateable website.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Argyll and Bute Council and Community Planning Partners have developed a series of strategic plans which aim to set out the vision, priorities and objectives for Argyll and Bute over the next ten years.

Developing the proposed Argyll and Bute Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) will allow Argyll and Bute Council and partners to place renewed focus on what aspects of these strategies should be prioritised for delivery.

The SIP will form the foundation for a rural regeneration initiative. The SIP will also promote the key development opportunities to developers and can be used to support the inclusion of significant projects in the next National Planning Framework.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1	Policy	The SIP is aligned to the Community Plan and Single Outcome 2 and the Local Development Plan.
6.2	Financial	The priority infrastructure projects identified will have financial costs associated with them.
6.3	Legal	The priority infrastructure projects identified may have legal implications associated with them.
6.4	HR	Resourcing of Strategic Infrastructure Plan required.
6.5	Equalities	The Strategic Infrastructure Plan will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.
6.6	Risk	There is a risk if the Strategic Infrastructure Plan is not developed the economic aspirations of Argyll and Bute may not be realised and inward capital investment will not be attracted.
6.7	Customer Services	None

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(*Note: Cross policy work will be required)
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