

These highlights from the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee meeting held on the 24th March 2016 are for information purposes for Area Community Planning Groups and partner organisations to distribute freely.

- The Management Committee were delighted to have Nick Ferguson, chair of the Economic Forum, present the recommendations of its recently published report. Key points from the presentation were :
 - The population of Argyll and Bute had declined between 2001 and 2011 with a key loss of 25 to 44 year olds
 - Not all areas of Argyll and Bute experienced population decline with Oban, Mull, Coll and Iona all experiencing population growth however the towns of Helensburgh, Campbeltown and Rothesay all decreased in population.
 - The industries of Tourism and Food Production and Processing, including Aquaculture should be the main focus for growth as they have strong employment, investment and growth opportunities.
 - Conservation of the environment is important.
 - The report also recommended focusing on Youth and Education through supporting Argyll College UHI, SAMS and developing Oban as a University town.
 - The barriers to growth were mobile and broadband connectivity, finance for small businesses, affordable housing and transport links
- It was noted that the Economic Forum will continue to meet bi-annually to review progress on its key recommendations.
- Lead Officers for the six outcomes that sit under the Single Outcome Agreement are considering the inclusion of recommendations from the Economic Forum within their outcome delivery plans.
- It was recognised that the review of the Single Outcome Agreement Delivery Plans is taking a renewed focus on partnership action to address key issues and 'gaps' across the area. Outcome Leads were given until 9 June to present the final delivery plans.
- The CPP Management Committee agreed to invite Visit Scotland and The Scottish Ambulance Service to be formal members of the Partnership.
- The Management Committee noted excellent partnership working between Argyll College UHI, Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Government to introduce three electric vehicles to Argyll College UHI.
- The continued integration of young people into community planning through Area Community Planning Groups and through the recruitment of a Modern Apprentice within the council's Community Development and CPP team was welcomed.

If you have any queries on these highlights please contact: cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk