

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 Oban, Lorn and the Isles 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
- To optimise our public assets to best facilitate economic growth

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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
2.1.3	To achieve a new service of a regular commercial air link between Oban and Glasgow/ Oban to Barra.	Discussions taking place with Glasgow airport regarding potential Oban – Glasgow route. Hitrans study identified the costs for a trial service as £50k per annum for each route. No source for this budget is currently identified.	Meeting with Glasgow Airport is due to take place late January.
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	Oban exchange already enabled as a Point of Presence with a number of other North Lorn sites due shortly.	2014/15
		Coverage through the Highlands and Islands programme expected to reach premises in the Aros, Balvicar, Coll, Connel, Craginure, Dalmally, Dervaig, Kilmelford, Ledaig, Scarinish, Taynuilt and Tobermory exchange areas	2014-2016
		Community Broadband Scotland working with communities unlikely to benefit from the above programmes including the Argyll Isles project which is looking to provide coverage to Lismore, Iona, Luing and parts of Mull.	2014-2017
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
		The Council is supporting a proportion of revenue costs in relation to the Scottish Government Pilot for a mobile phone mast on Coll for a period of 5 years.	2014-19
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	Ongoing. Study by National Grid in relation to ANM expected end of 2015.

		<p>pressing National Grid and SSE, as the distribution network operator, for the roll out of active network management (AMN) as early as possible.</p> <p>Possible future improvements to grid infrastructure in the Taynuilt to Inveraray area have not yet been triggered although there are known issues affecting those wishing to generate in this area.</p>	
		The Highlands and Islands Local Energy Consortium is supporting work in relation to Local Energy Economies to overcome grid constraints and through the Local Energy Challenge Fund has secured Phase 1 funding for a pilot project in relation to smart heating on Mull.	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
		HEEPS project planned for islands	2016/17
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 OLI would follow this.
2.7.4	Develop a plan to promote our Piers and Harbours	<i>No information as at February 2015</i>	

